

Chinese I

Translations and syntactic/semantic judgments provided by: #21, October 2006,
February 2007

Data collected by: Neal Whitman

General notes: Chinese is an SVO language, with adverbs typically appearing before the verb. It is a wh-in-situ language, though wh-items can sometimes be scrambled. For this reason, there are still two (or more) possible versions of MWh questions. Since this speaker provided both syntactic and semantic data, occasionally a sentence judged ungrammatical during the translation/syntax interview is nonetheless assigned SP or PL readings during the later semantics interview. These sentences are indicated with a ? in the summary table.

Wh combination	MWh	CWh
Complement/complement	S	
Mixed	see below	
Adjunct/adjunct	•	•, better with <i>yiji</i>

Mixed cases in detail	MWh	CWh
Adjunct/complement: <i>where</i> (<i>who</i> subj)	S	OK with <i>who</i> first
Adjunct/complement : <i>where</i> (<i>whom</i> obj)	S	OK with <i>who</i> first
Adjunct/complement: <i>when</i> (<i>who</i> subj)	•	OK with <i>who</i> first
Adjunct/complement: <i>when</i> (<i>whom</i> obj)	S	OK with <i>who</i> first

I. who/what

SP context : Someone tells you, “I saw a friend of yours reading something unusual.”

PL context: You’re the professor in a seminar, and last week each student in your class chose an article to read and report on this week. Now you’re in class, getting ready to hear the various students’ reports.

a. 谁 读 了 什么?

shei2 du2 le shen2me

who read ASP what

‘Who read what?’

SP and PL OK

b. *什么 读 了 谁?

*shen2me du2 le shei2

what read ASP who

SP and PL: *

c. *谁 和 什么 读 了?

*shei2 he3 shen2me du2 le

who and what read ASP

SP and PL: *

cc. *谁 以及 什么 读 了?
 *shei2 yiji shen2me du2 le
 who and what read ASP
 SP and PL: *

d. *什么 和 谁 读 了?
 *shen2me he3 shei2 du2 le
 what and who read ASP
 SP and PL: *

dd. *什么 以及 谁 读 了?
 *shen2me yiji shei2 du2 le
 what and who read ASP
 SP and PL: *

[NW: When I coordinated the wh items, why did I do it at the front? Because that's where *shei* was in the single-wh question. But not because it had been moved there; that's where it would appear anyway. It was in situ, just like the *shenme* was. So it would have made just as much sense to ask about *du le shei shenme*, or *du le shenme shei*, and I should have done this.]

II. who/where

SP context : Someone tells you, "A friend of yours saw Xiaoming in a strange place."

PL context: You are a police detective investigating the mysterious disappearance of Xiaoming. You are conferring with other investigators on the case, trying to reconstruct Xiaoming's last known movements from what witnesses have told you.

a. 谁 在 哪里 看见 了 小明
 shei2 zai4 na3li3 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
 who where see ASP Xiaoming
 'Who saw Xiaoming where?'
 SP and PL OK

b. *在 哪里 谁 看见 了 小明
 *zai4 na3li3 shei2 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
 where who see ASP Xiaoming
 SP and PL: *

c. *谁 和 在 哪里 看见 了 小明
 *shei3 he3 zai4 na3li3 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
 who and where see ASP Xiaoming
 SP and PL OK

cc. *谁 以及 在 哪里 看见 了 小明
 shei3 yiji zai4 na3li3 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
 who and where see ASP Xiaoming
 SP and PL OK

- d. *在 哪里 和 谁 看见 了 小明
 *zai4 na3li3 he3 shei3 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
 where and who see ASP Xiaoming
 SP and PL: *
- dd. *在 哪里 以及 谁 看见了 小明
 *zai4 na3li3 yiji shei3 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
 where and who see ASP Xiaoming
 SP and PL: *

SP context: Someone tells you, “Xiaoming saw a friend of yours in a strange place.”

PL context: You suspect that Xiaoming is a spy, and are trying to find out who her contacts are by observing whom she meets with during the course of a day. You have a number of people secretly observing her, and are now about to gather whatever information they have about Xiaoming.

- e. 小明 在 哪里 看见 了 谁?
Xiao3ming2 zai4 na3li3 kan4jian4 le shei2
 Xiaoming where see ASP who
 ‘Whom did Xiaoming see where?’
 SP and PL OK
- f. *小明 谁 看见 了 在 哪里?
 *Xiao3ming2 shei2 kan4jian4 le zai4 na3li3
 Xiaoming who see ASP where
 SP and PL: *
- g. *小明 在 哪里 和 谁 看见 了?
 *Xiao3ming2 zai4 na3li3 he3 shei3 kan4jian4 le
 Xiaoming where and who see ASP
 SP and PL: *
- gg. *小明 在 哪里 以及 谁 看见 了?
 *Xiao3ming2 zai4 na3li3 yiji shei3 kan4jian4 le
 Xiaoming where and who see ASP
 SP and PL: *
- h. 小明 谁 和 在 哪里 看见 了?
Xiao3ming2 shei3 he3 zai4 na3li3 kan4jian4 le
 Xiaoming who and where see ASP
 SP and PL OK
- hh. 小明 谁 以及 在 哪里 看见 了?
Xiao3ming2 shei3 yiji zai4 na3li3 kan4jian4 le
 Xiaoming who and where see ASP
 SP and PL OK

[NW: Again, it would have made as much sense to ask about *Xiaoming kanjian le shei yiji zai nali* as it did for the actual items g-hh.]

III. who/when

SP context: Someone tells you, “A friend of yours saw Xiaoming at the worst possible moment.”

PL context: You are a police detective investigating the mysterious disappearance of Xiaoming. You are conferring with other investigators on the case, trying to reconstruct Xiaoming’s last known movements from what witnesses have told you.

a. 谁 什么 时候 看见 了 小明？
shei2 shen2me shi2hou4 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
who when see ASP Xiaoming?
‘Who saw Xiaoming when?’
SP and PL OK

b. 什么 时候 谁 看见 了 小明？
shen2me shi2hou4 shei2 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
when who see ASP Xiaoming?
‘When did who see Xiaoming?’
SP and PL OK

c. *谁 和 什么 时候 看见 了 小明？
*shei2 he2 shen2me shi2hou4 kan4jian4 le xiao4ming2
who and when see ASP Xiaoming?
SP and PL OK

cc. 谁 以及 什么 时候 看见 了 小明？
shei2 yiji shen2me shi2hou4 kan4jian4 le xiao4ming2
who and when see ASP Xiaoming?
SP and PL OK

d. *什么 时候 和 谁 看见 了 小明？
*shen2me shi2hou4 he2 shei2 kan4jian4 le xiao4ming2
when and who see ASP Xiaoming
SP and PL: *

dd. *什么 时候 以及 谁 看见 了 小明？
*shen2me shi2hou4 yiji shei2 kan4jian4 le xiao4ming2
when and who see ASP Xiaoming
SP and PL: *

SP context: Someone tells you, “Xiaoming saw a friend of yours at the worst possible moment.”

PL context: You suspect that Xiaoming is a spy, and are trying to find out who her contacts are by observing whom she meets with during the course of a day. You have a number of people secretly observing her, and are now about to gather whatever information they have about Xiaoming.

e. 小明 什么 时候 看见 了 谁？
Xiao3ming2 shen2me shi2hou4 kan4jian4 le shei2
Xiaoming when see ASP who
Whom did Xiaoming see when?
SP and PL OK

f. *小明 谁 看见 了 什么 时候？
*Xiao3ming2 shei2 kan4jian4 le shen2me shi2hou4
Xiaoming who see ASP when
SP and PL: *

g. *小明 什么 时候 和 谁 看见 了？
*Xiao3ming2 shen2me shi2hou4 he3 shei3 kan4jian4 le
Xiaoming when and who see ASP
SP and PL: *

gg. *小明 什么 时候 以及 谁 看见 了？
*Xiao3ming2 shen2me shi2hou4 yiji shei3 kan4jian4 le
Xiaoming when and who see ASP
SP and PL: *

h. 小明 谁 和 什么 时候 看见 了？
Xiao3ming2 shei3 he3 shen2me shi2hou4 kan4jian4 le
Xiaoming who and when see ASP
SP and PL OK

hh. 小明 谁 以及 什么 时候 看见 了？
Xiao3ming2 shei3 yiji shen2me shi2hou4 kan4jian4 le
Xiaoming who and when see ASP
SP and PL OK

[NW: It would have made as much sense to ask about *Xiaoming kanjian le shei yiji shenme shihou* as it did for the actual items g-hh.]

IV. where/when

SP context: Someone tells you that your favorite performer, the famous singer Xiaoming, is performing in town for one night only.

PL context: Someone tells you that Xiaoming is going on a concert tour this summer.

a. 小明 什么 时候 在 哪里 唱歌？
Xiao3ming2 shen2me shi2hou4 zai4 na3li3 chang4ge1
Xiaoming when where sing
‘When did Xiaoming sing where?’
SP and PL OK

- b. 小明 在 哪里 什么 时候 唱歌？
 Xiao3ming2 zai4 na3li3 shen2me shi2hou4 chang4ge1
 Xiaoming where when sing
 ‘Where did Xiaoming sing when?’
 SP and PL OK
 [#21 notes that IVa is better.]
- c. *小明 什么 时候 和 在 哪里 唱歌？
 *Xiao3ming2 shen2me shi2hou4 he2 zai4 na3li3 chang4ge1
 Xiaoming when and where sing
 ‘When and where did Xiaoming sing?’
 SP and PL OK
- cc. 小明 什么 时候 以及 在 哪里 唱歌？
 Xiao3ming2 shen2me shi2hou4 yiji zai4 na3li3 chang4ge1
 Xiaoming when and where sing
 SP and PL OK
- d. *小明 在 哪里 和 什么 时候 唱歌？
 *Xiao3ming2 zai4 na3li3 he2 shen2me shi2hou4 chang4ge1
 Xiaoming where and when sing
 ‘Where and when did Xiaoming sing?’
 SP and PL OK
- dd. 小明 在 哪里 以及 什么 时候 唱歌？
 Xiao3ming2 zai4 na3li3 yiji shen2me shi2hou4 chang4ge1
 Xiaoming where and when sing
 SP and PL OK

Chinese III

Semantic judgments provided by: #23, Feb. 2006

Data collected by: Neal Whitman

Wh combination	MWh	CWh
Complement/complement	S	• with <i>who</i> first and <i>yiji</i>
Mixed	see below	
Adjunct/adjunct	•	• with <i>yiji</i>

Mixed cases in detail	MWh	CWh
Adjunct/complement: <i>where</i> (<i>who</i> subj)	S	• with <i>yiji</i>
Adjunct/complement: <i>where</i> (<i>whom</i> obj)	S	OK with <i>who</i> first and <i>yiji</i>
Adjunct/complement: <i>when</i> (<i>who</i> subj)	•	OK with <i>yiji</i>
Adjunct/complement: <i>when</i> (<i>whom</i> obj)	S	OK with <i>who</i> first

I. who/what

SP context : Someone tells you, “I saw a friend of yours reading something unusual.”

PL context: You’re the professor in a seminar, and last week each student in your class chose an article to read and report on this week. Now you’re in class, getting ready to hear the various students’ reports.

a. 谁 读 了 什么?

shei2 du2 le shen2me

who read ASP what

‘Who read what?’

SP and PL OK

b. *什么 读 了 谁?

*shen2me du2 le shei2

what read ASP who

‘What did who read?’

SP and PL: *

c. *谁 和 什么 读 了?

*shei2 he3 shen2me du2 le

who and what read ASP

SP and PL: *

cc. 谁 以及 什么 读 了?

shei2 yiji shen2me du2 le

who and what read ASP

SP and PL OK

d. *什么 和 谁 读 了?

*shen2me he3 shei2 du2 le

what and who read ASP

SP and PL: *

dd. *什么 以及 谁 读 了?
 *shen2me yiji shei2 du2 le
 what and who read ASP
 SP and PL: *

II. who/where

SP context: Someone tells you, “A friend of yours saw Xiaoming in a strange place.”

PL context: You are a police detective investigating the mysterious disappearance of Xiaoming. You are conferring with other investigators on the case, trying to reconstruct Xiaoming’s last known movements from what witnesses have told you.

a. 谁 在 哪里 看见 了 小明
 shei2 zai4 na3li3 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
 who where see ASP Xiaoming?
 ‘Who saw Xiaoming where?’
 SP and PL OK

b. *在 哪里 谁 看见 了 小明
 *zai4 na3li3 shei2 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
 where who see ASP Xiaoming?
 ‘Where did who see Xiaoming?’
 SP and PL: *

c. *谁 和 在 哪里 看见 了 小明
 *shei3 he3 zai4 na3li3 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
 who and where see ASP Xiaoming?
 SP and PL: *

cc. 谁 以及 在 哪里 看见 了 小明
 shei3 yiji zai4 na3li3 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
 who and where see ASP Xiaoming?
 SP: *
 PL: OK

d. *在 哪里 和 谁 看见 了 小明
 *zai4 na3li3 he3 shei3 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
 where and who see ASP Xiaoming?
 SP and PL: *

dd. 在 哪里 以及 谁 看见 了 小明
 zai4 na3li3 yiji shei3 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
 where and who see ASP Xiaoming?
 SP: *
 PL: OK

SP context: Someone tells you, “Xiaoming saw a friend of yours in a strange place.”

PL context: You suspect that Xiaoming is a spy, and are trying to find out who her contacts are by observing whom she meets with during the course of a day. You have a

number of people secretly observing her, and are now about to gather whatever information they have about Xiaoming.

- e. 小明 在 哪里 看见 了 谁?
Xiao3ming2 zai4 na3li3 kan4jian4 le shei2
Xiaoming where see ASP who?
'Whom did Xiaoming see where?'
SP: OK
PL: *
- f. *小明 谁 看见 了 在 哪里?
*Xiao3ming2 shei2 kan4jian4 le zai4 na3li3
Xiaoming who see ASP where?
'Where did Xiaoming see whom?'
SP and PL: *
- g. *小明 在 哪里 和 谁 看见 了?
*Xiao3ming2 zai4 na3li3 he3 shei3 kan4jian4 le
Xiaoming where and who see ASP?
SP and PL: *
- gg. *小明 在 哪里 以及 谁 看见 了?
*Xiao3ming2 zai4 na3li3 yiji shei3 kan4jian4 le
Xiaoming where and who see ASP?
SP and PL: *
- h. *小明 谁 和 在 哪里 看见 了?
*Xiao3ming2 shei3 he3 zai4 na3li3 kan4jian4 le
Xiaoming who and where see ASP?
SP and PL: *
- hh. 小明 谁 以及 在 哪里 看见 了?
Xiao3ming2 shei3 yiji zai4 na3li3 kan4jian4 le
Xiaoming who and where see ASP?
SP and PL OK

III. who/when

SP context: Someone tells you, "A friend of yours saw Xiaoming at the worst possible moment."

PL context: You are a police detective investigating the mysterious disappearance of Xiaoming. You are conferring with other investigators on the case, trying to reconstruct Xiaoming's last known movements from what witnesses have told you.

- a. 谁 什么 时候 看见 了 小明?
shei2 shen2me shi2hou4 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
who when see ASP Xiaoming?
'Who saw Xiaoming when?'
SP and PL OK

- b. 什么 时候 谁 看见 了 小明 ?
shen2me shi2hou4 shei2 kan4jian4 le xiao3ming2
 when who see ASP Xiaoming?
 ‘When did who see Xiaoming?’
 SP and PL OK
- c. *谁 和 什么 时候 看见 了 小明 ?
 *shei2 he2 shen2me shi2hou4 kan4jian4 le xiao4ming2
 who and when see ASP Xiaoming?
 SP and PL: *
- cc. 谁 以及 什么 时候 看见 了 小明 ?
shei2 yiji shen2me shi2hou4 kan4jian4 le xiao4ming2
 who and when see ASP Xiaoming?
 SP and PL OK
- d. *什么 时候 和 谁 看见 了 小明 ?
 *shen2me shi2hou4 he2 shei2 kan4jian4 le xiao4ming2
 when and who see ASP Xiaoming?
 SP and PL: *
- dd. 什么 时候 以及 谁 看见 了 小明 ?
shen2me shi2hou4 yiji shei2 kan4jian4 le xiao4ming2
 when and who see ASP Xiaoming?
 SP and PL OK

SP context: Someone tells you, “Xiaoming saw a friend of yours at the worst possible moment.”

PL context: You suspect that Xiaoming is a spy, and are trying to find out who her contacts are by observing whom she meets with during the course of a day. You have a number of people secretly observing her, and are now about to gather whatever information they have about Xiaoming.

- e. 小明 什么 时候 看见 了 谁 ?
Xiao3ming2 shen2me shi2hou4 kan4jian4 le shei2
 Xiaoming when see ASP who?
 ‘Whom did Xiaoming see when?’
 SP and PL OK
- f. *小明 谁 看见 了 什么 时候 ?
 *Xiao3ming2 shei2 kan4jian4 le shen2me shi2hou4
 Xiaoming who see ASP when
 ‘When did Xiaoming see whom?’
 SP and PL: *
- g. *小明 什么 时候 和 谁 看见 了 ?
 *Xiao3ming2 shen2me shi2hou4 he3 shei3 kan4jian4 le
 Xiaoming when and who see ASP?
 SP and PL: *

gg. 小明 什么 时候 以及 谁 看见 了?
 Xiao3ming2 shen2me shi2hou4 yiji shei3 kan4jian4 le
 Xiaoming when and who see ASP?
 SP and PL OK

h. 小明 谁 和 什么 时候 看见 了?
 Xiao3ming2 shei3 he3 shen2me shi2hou4 kan4jian4 le
 Xiaoming who and when see ASP?
 SP preferred

hh. 小明 谁 以及 什么 时候 看见 了?
 Xiao3ming2 shei3 yiji shen2me shi2hou4 kan4jian4 le
 Xiaoming who and when see ASP?
 SP and PL OK

IV. where/when

SP context: Someone tells you that your favorite performer, the famous singer Xiaoming, is performing in town for one night only.

PL context: Someone tells you that Xiaoming is going on a concert tour this summer.

a. 小明 什么 时候 在 哪里 唱歌?
 Xiao3ming2 shen2me shi2hou4 zai4 na3li3 chang4ge1
 Xiaoming when where sing
 ‘Where did Xiaoming sing when?’
 SP and PL OK

b. 小明 在 哪里 什么 时候 唱歌?
 Xiao3ming2 zai4 na3li3 shen2me shi2hou4 chang4ge1
 Xiaoming where when sing
 ‘When did Xiaoming sing where?’
 SP preferred

c. *小明 什么 时候 和 在 哪里 唱歌?
 *Xiao3ming2 shen2me shi2hou4 he2 zai4 na3li3 chang4ge1
 Xiaoming when and where sing
 ‘When and where did Xiaoming sing?’
 SP and PL: *

cc. 小明 什么 时候 以及 在 哪里 唱歌?
 Xiao3ming2 shen2me shi2hou4 yiji zai4 na3li3 chang4ge1
 Xiaoming when and where sing
 ‘When and where did Xiaoming sing?’
 SP and PL OK

d. *小明 在 哪里 和 什么 时候 唱歌？
*Xiao3ming2 zai4 na3li3 he2 shen2me shi2hou4 chang4ge1
Xiaoming where and when sing
'Where and when did Xiaoming sing?'
SP and PL: *

dd. 小明 在 哪里 以及 什么 时候 唱歌？
Xiao3ming2 zai4 na3li3 yiji shen2me shi2hou4 chang4ge1
Xiaoming where and when sing
'Where and when did Xiaoming sing?'
SP preferred