*Chinese Semantic Primes, with English equivalents*

[Based on work by Jock Wong and Zhengdao Ye, after Chappell (2002)]

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| **我wŏ, 你nĭ, 某人mŏurén ~ 有人yŏurén ~ 人rén, 什么shénme ~ 某事 mŏshì ~ 东西dōngxī, 人们rénmen ~ 人rén, 身体shēntĭ** | substantives |
| i, you, someone, something~thing, people, body |
| **种zhŏng, 部分bùfen** | relational substantives |
| kinds, parts |
| **这zhè,同一tóngyī ~ 一样yīyàng, 别(的) bié (de) ~ 其他（的)** **qítā (de) ~ 另lìng** | determiners |
| this, the same, other~else |
| **一yī,** 两**liǎng, 有的yŏude ~ 有些yŏuxiē~ 一些yīxiē, 都dōu ~所有(的)suŏyŏu(de), (很)多(hĕn)duō ~ 许多xŭduō,** **(很)少**(**hěn)shǎo ~ 一点 yīdiǎn** | quantifiers |
| one, two, some, all, much~many, little~few |
| **好hăo, 坏*huài* ~ 不好bùhăo** | evaluators |
| good, bad |
| **大dà, 小xiăo** | descriptors |
| big, small |
| **知道zhīdào, 想xiăng, 要yào ~ 想要xiǎng yào, 不要bùyào, 感觉gănjué, 看kàn ~ 看到kàndào, 听tīng ~ 听到tīngdào**  | mental predicates |
| know, think, want, don’t want, feel, see, hear |
| **说shuō, 字zì ~ 词 cí ~ 话huà, 真zhēn** | speech |
| say, words, true |
| **做zuò, 发生fāshēng, 动dòng** | actions, events, movement |
| do, happen, move |
| **在zài, 有yŏu, 是shì** | location, existence,specification |
| be (somewhere), there is, be (someone/something) |
| **(是)我的(shì) wǒde** | possession |
| (is) mine |
| **生活shēnghuó *~* 活huó, 死sĭ** | life and death |
| live, die |
| **时候shíhòu, 现在xiànzài,** 之前**zhīqián,** 之后**zhīhòu, 很久hénjiŭ, 一会儿yīhuìr, 一段时间yīduàn shíjiān, 一刻yīkè** | time |
| time~ when, now, before, after, a long time, a short time, for some time, moment |
| **地方dìfāng, 这里zhèlǐ, 上面shàngmiàn ~ 上*-*shàng, 下面xiàmiàn ~ 下*-*xià, 远yuăn, 近jìn, 边biān, 里面lĭmiàn, 接触jiēchù** | place |
| place~where, here, above, below, far, near, side, inside, touch |
| **不bù *~* 没méi, 也许yéxǔ, 能néng, 因为yīnwèi, 如果rúguŏ** | logical concepts |
| not, maybe, can, because, if |
| **很hĕn, 多duō ~ 还hái** | intensifier, augmentor |
| very, more |
| **像xiàng ~ 这样zhèyàng** | similarity |
| like~as |

**Notes**: • Exponents of primes can be polysemous, i.e. they can have other, additional meanings • Exponents of primes may be words, bound morphemes, or phrasemes • They can be formally complex • They can have language-specific combinatorial variants (allolexes, indicated with ~) • Each prime has well-specified syntactic (combinatorial) properties.