



IDEOPHONES / EXPRESSIVE / MIMETICS

“MARKED WORDS THAT DEPICT SENSORY IMAGE”

(Dingemanse 2011; 2012)

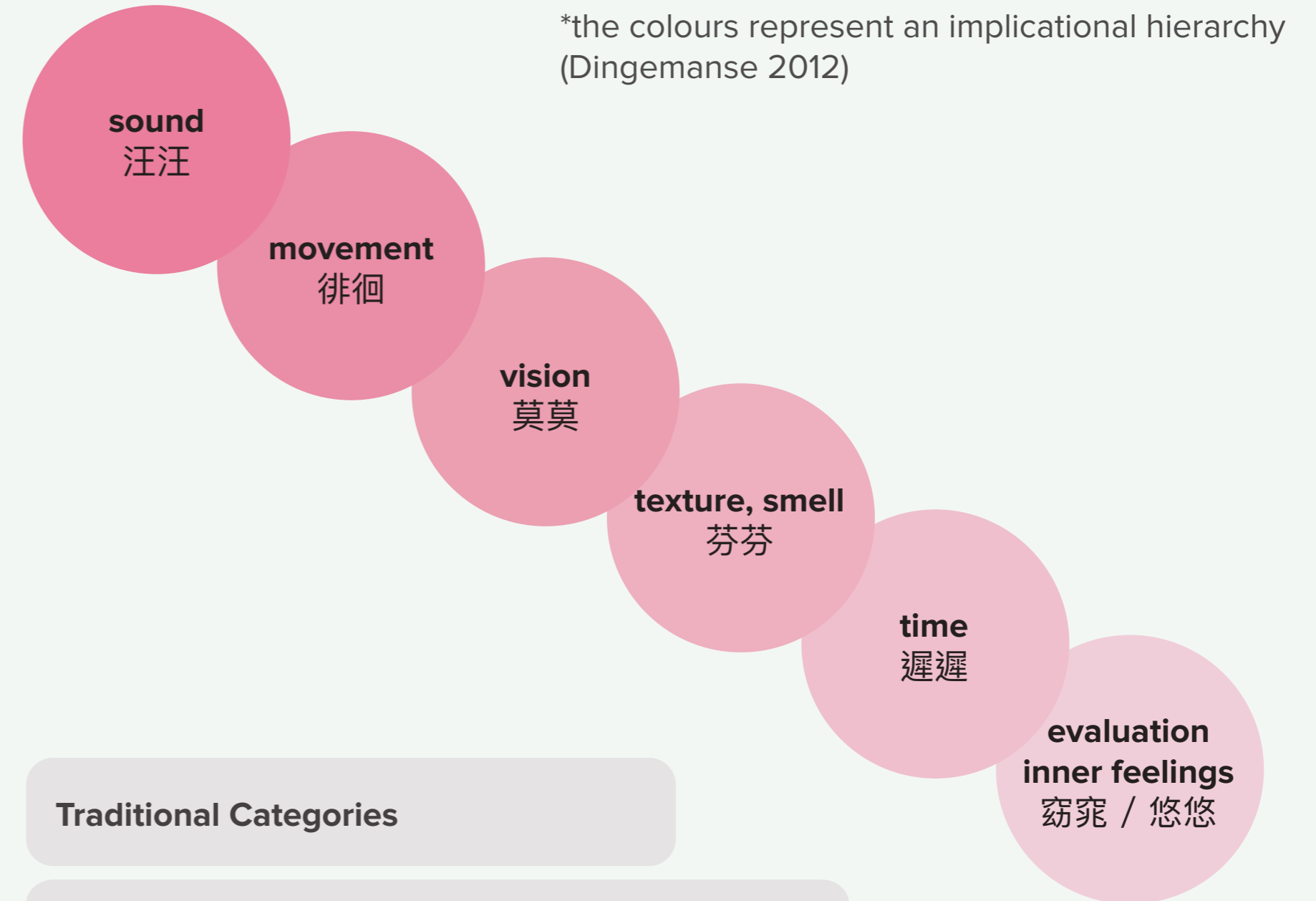
“VIVID REPRESENTATIONS OF AN IDEA IN SOUND”

(DOKE 1935)

My Research

My research is focused on using **cognitive-functional linguistic frameworks** to describe both the **synchronic** properties of **ideophones** at a given point and their **diachronic** development.

To do this, I adopt both a **quantitative** and a **qualitative approach** that focuses on collecting ideophones from the vast Chinese historical corpus and analyze them later through a database. In depth studies that I have done so far include analyses of ideophones in Tang dynasty poems and in the Shijing.



Traditional Categories

Morphological

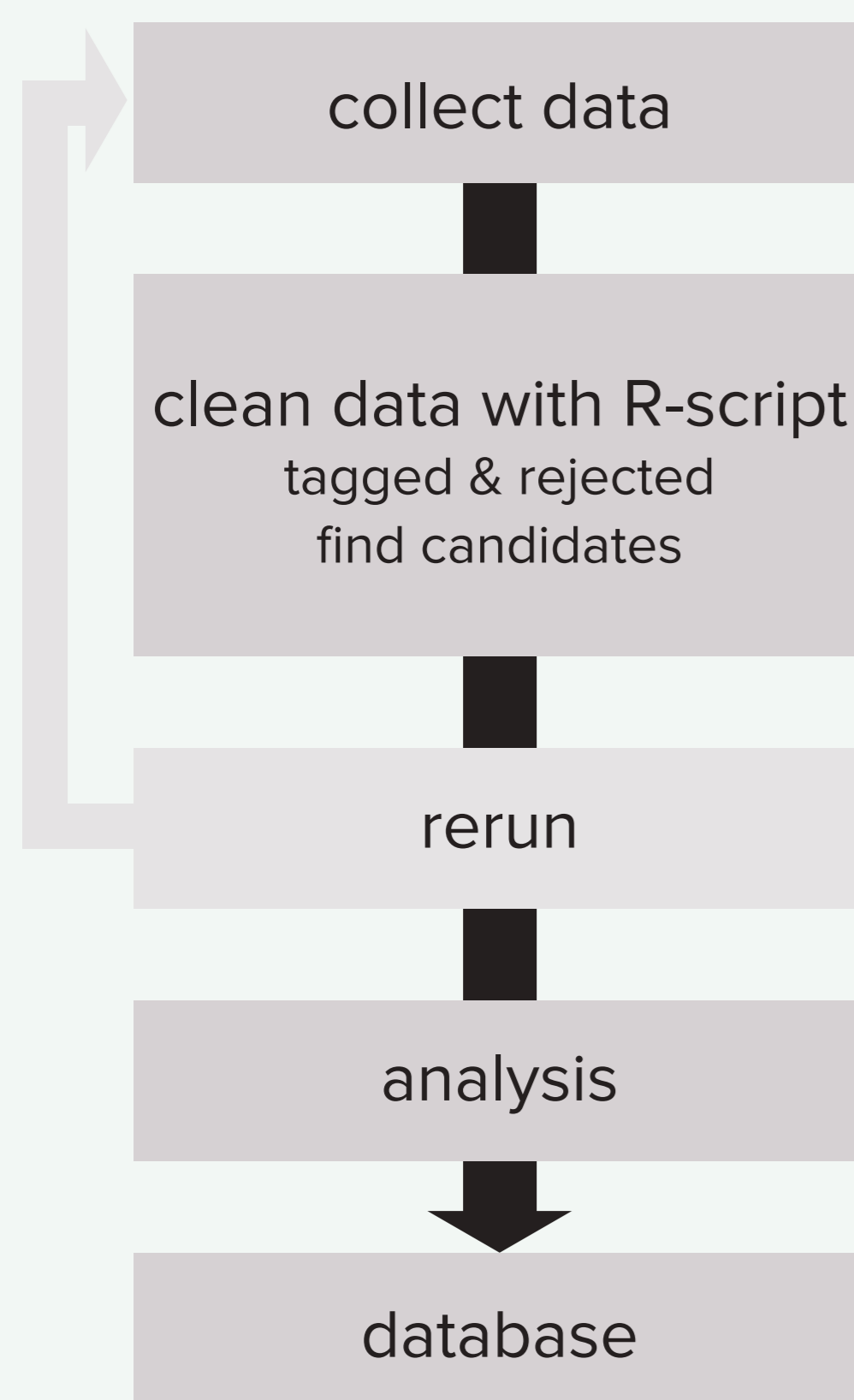
diezi	疊字	full reduplication
shuangsheng	雙聲	alliteration
dieyun	疊韻	rhyme

Semantic

nishengci	擬聲詞	sound-mimicking words
nitaici	擬態詞	state-mimicking words
niqingci	擬情詞	feeling-mimicking words

DIGITAL METHODS

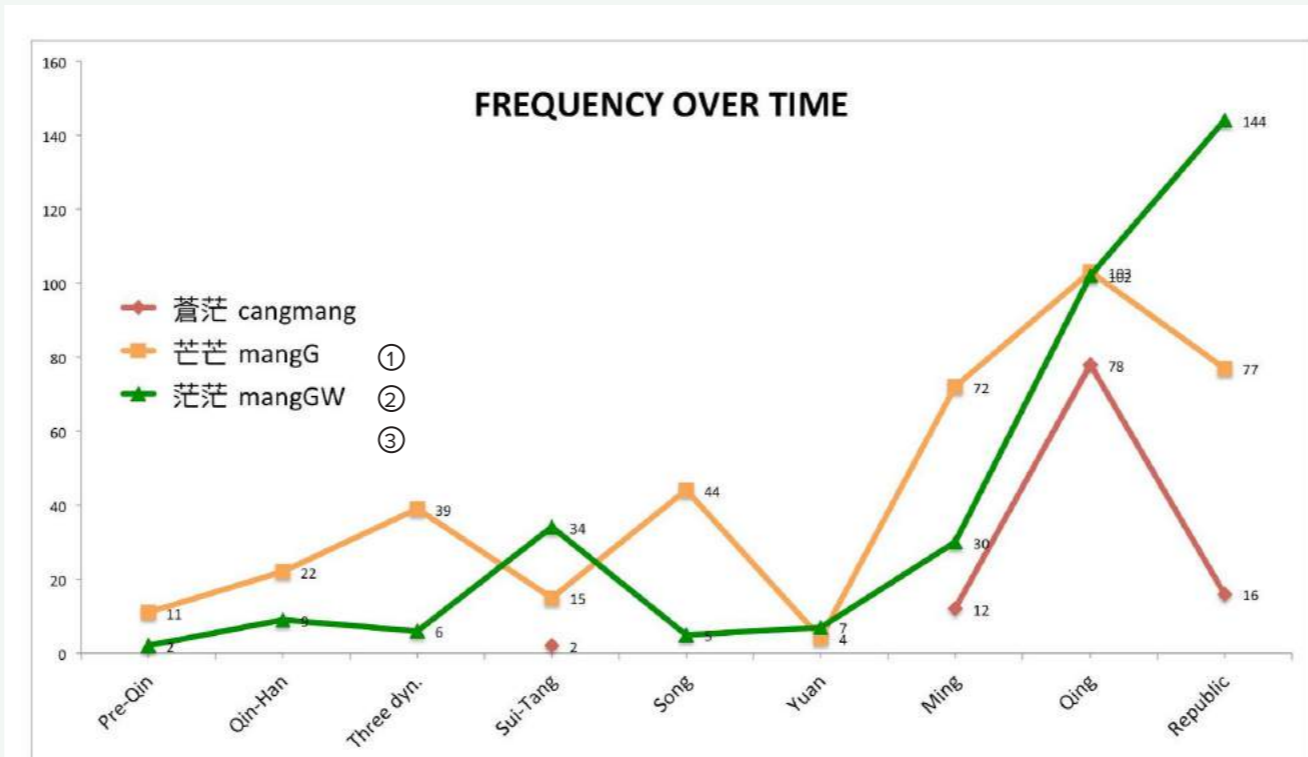
CORPUS ANALYSIS



One of my recent studies tries to incorporate **variationist approaches to the study of ideophones**. We used a corpus-driven approach to generate three similar ideophones (see below). With a corpus-based approach (Scripta Sinica 漢籍全文資料庫計畫 and Leiden Weibo Corpus) we tracked their usage throughout time. The occurrence of the ideophones was linked to the place the authors grew up in and visualized using GIS software.

We found significant difference in their frequency and place of occurrence. This fits in with the idea that ideophones are learned earlier and faster, and the embodiment hypothesis.

Van Hoey, Thomas & Chiarung Lu. 2016.



cangmang, mangmang and mangmang all mean 'wide, vast, without beginning, without end'

