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**THE MODAL PARTICLE 吧 BA: EVOLUTION, FUNCTIONING PATTERNS AND BASIC MEANING**

**Abstract**

Many modal particles are a distinctive feature of the Chinese language. Grammar researchers pay considerable attention to the study and description of the main functions and meanings of modal particles, that present an important class of words in general grammatical structure of modern Chinese. Their use plays an significant role in terms of sentence intonation, they introduce additional shades of meaning, and can even change the meaning of the whole sentence. This article describes the history of development, features, functioning patterns, and the basic meanings of the modal particle 吧 *ba* that is characterized by a broad shere of use and diversity of functions and connotations. These issues are of great interest and relevance for Chinese-as-L2 learners, as well as for researchers of modern Chinese grammar.

**Keywords:** modal particle, intonation, commandment question, request, suggestion, theme, rheme.

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