

Constituency and Derivation of Cataphora

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ABSTRACT

This paper addresses the constituency and ways of generation of cataphora. After having discussed the syntactic features of cataphora, the paper proposes that the ways of generation of cataphora falls into two types: movement and base-generation. Cataphora generated in the first way occupies the subject zone and functions as the modifier of the subject head, whereas cataphora generated in the second way occupies the adjunct zone and functions as a topic. Both ways of generation, however, must follow the Binding Principles B and C and satisfy the Prominence Constraint, the Feature Compatibility Constraint, and the I-within-I Constraint. Furthermore, movement must satisfy the requirement of Predicate-internal Subject, and cataphora in the attributive clause must follow GCR, ECP and islands conditions. This paper also discusses the necessity of establishing TopP from the point of view of Modern Chinese. As a supplement to and refinement of the TP adjunction approach, TopP base-generation approach can efficiently solve the problems TP adjunction approach runs into in terms of cataphora in the adjunct position and is cross-linguistically testified.

Keywords: Cataphora, movement, base-generation, binding, prominence

1. INTRODUCTION

Cataphora has been one of the hot topics in the linguistic research in recent years. Quite a few scholars have argued over its features and generation mechanism. The focus of argumentation is its