

Types of Questions, New Information and Isomorphism in Mandarin Chinese

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In this paper I study how both functionalists and formalists account for the distribution of new information and for scope phenomena in simple as well as in complex sentences in Mandarin Chinese. In both types of approaches, isomorphism (with a left to right direction) is taken for granted. For functionalists, the linearization of word order and the structure of information are isomorphic. For formalists, a deep level and a surface level of (syntactic) structures are isomorphic. But, because Chinese is *both* a head initial and a head final language, by definition scope relations function in *two* (not one) directions. So far, inverse scope phenomena (with a right to left direction) have received little attention in the literature. To account for scope relations and for information structure in a better way, I propose to pair affirmative and interrogative sentences.