Chinese Inter-clausal Anaphora in Conditionals: A Linear Regression Study

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Chinese inter-clausal anaphora, as in *Wosuiranxiang fa cai, keshibuganmaoxian.*'I although want to get rich, yet don't dare to take risks' is considered 'rather striking' (Chao, 1968) because of the way the subject can be fronted or not, which might come from reference patterns of the two clausal subjects. Previous corpus investigations (Xu (1995), Chen (2016) and others) have suggested a direct relation between reference patterns (disjoint reference or co-reference between the two subjects) and the position of the subject. The present study explores other factors that might play a role in predicting either the structure or the reference patterns.

Corpus data for 25 conditional subordinators are grouped according to logic relations from Huang and Liao (2002). 8007 sentences were subject to the final statistical analysis, performed by means of linear-models. In model 1, it is found out that in predicting structure, the genre Newspaper is less likely than Literature in getting fronted structure; disjoint reference pattern is less likely to indicate fronted structure than conjoint reference pattern; NP in the first clausal subject position is more likely to be associated with fronted structure than other pronouns or wh-words or personal pronouns; NP in the second clausal subject position is more likely to result in fronted structure than personal pronouns but less likely than zero pronoun in the same place; fronted subject in clause two is more likely to lead to fronted structure than un-fronted one.

Our second model studies variables that have an influence on reference pattern. The genre Newspaper is less likely than Literature in predicting disjoint reference patterns; fronted structure is less likely than un-fronted structure in arriving at disjoint reference patterns; NP in first clausal subject is more likely to lead to disjoint reference patterns than other pronouns or wh-words or personal pronouns; NP is second clausal subject is more likely to target disjoint reference pattern than other pronouns or wh-words or personal pronouns or zero; fronted subject in second clause is more likely to relate to disjoint reference than un-fronted subject in the same place. Motivations include accessibility, accumulated accessibility, topicality, contrastive topic, and others. Such models are probably applicable to other types of inter-clausal anaphora.

Key words: Inter-clausal anaphora; conditionals; Linear Regression Models