

## CHAPTER VI

### CONCLUSION

#### 6.1 Summary

In English, the lexical entry of predicates, such as “like [ \_\_ NP]”, represents that *like* c-selects a NP-complement and this required NP-complement can immediately follow *like* and be realized as an OBJ. Complements of other category types being realized as OBJ will make ungrammatical sentences, so they may be realized as TOP to satisfy the requirement through identification with the missing OBJ.

A Mandarin Chinese predicate, like 拿手 *na2shou3* ‘be-good-at’, c-selects an NP-complement as in English. The difference between Mandarin Chinese predicates and English predicates is that the required NP-complement can immediately follow the English predicate but it cannot immediately follow the Mandarin Chinese predicate. For example:

(82) a. I like [him kissing me on the cheek]<sub>NP</sub>.

b. [Him kissing me on the cheek]<sub>NP</sub>, I like.

(83) a. \*他 最 拿手 [數學]<sub>NP</sub>

*ta1 zui4 na2shou3 [shu4xue2]<sub>NP</sub>*

he most be-good-at math

‘He is good at math.’

- b. [數學]<sub>NP</sub>,      他      最      拿手  
       [shu4xue2]      ta1      zui4      na2shou3  
       math            he    most      be-good-at  
       ‘He is good at math.’

In Mandarin Chinese, the required NP-complement of 拿手 *na2shou3* ‘be-good-at’ can only be realized as TOP and satisfy the requirement of the lexical entry through identification with the missing OBJ. Since the NP can be realized as TOP identifying with the missing OBJ, other category types such as CP, VP, and PP should be able to be realized as TOP as well. In fact, only NP, VP, and CP can satisfy the requirement of 拿手 *na2shou3* ‘be-good-at’. The secondary purpose of this study is to try to establish a hierarchy of category types.

The ability of a category type to be realized as TOP of Mandarin Chinese predicates seems to be closely connected to certain hierarchy – NP > VP > CP > PP. The category type with a higher rank in this hierarchy will be the least marked form that can be realized as TOP of the predicate. Furthermore, if the category type with the lowest rank can be realized as TOP, the category type with a higher rank can certainly be realized as TOP of the predicate. But while the category type with the highest rank can be realized as TOP, the category type with a lower rank than it cannot necessarily be realized as TOP of the predicate.

## 6.2 Further Research

In this study, we assume that only NP, VP, and CP can be realized as TOP of predicates with movement paradox in Mandarin Chinese and those that do not conform to the requirement of the predicates may also cohere with the semantic restrictions by some mechanism such as type-shifting or metonymy. Hence, three tasks may be proposed for follow-up research:

- 1) To extensively examine whether the hierarchy formed for Mandarin Chinese predicates are the same as for English predicates with movement paradoxes. Since one difference between Mandarin Chinese and English is that there is no AP in Mandarin Chinese, the hierarchy for English predicates might be NP > VP > CP > AP > PP.
- 2) To conduct a detailed analysis of the semantic restrictions of predicates with movement paradoxes in Mandarin Chinese.
- 3) In this study, predicates with movement paradoxes in Mandarin Chinese are divided into three types based on morphology. However, there might be some specific semantic foundation for the classification. So the third task for further research is to examine the semantic foundation of the classification of predicates with movement paradoxes in Mandarin Chinese.

The ultimate goal of the further research can provide stronger evidence to

show that the hierarchy of category types that could be realized as TOP of predicates with movement paradoxes in Mandarin Chinese and in English are the same except for AP.