LOGOPHORICITY, ATTITUDES, AND ZIJI AT THE INTERFACE

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1. INTRODUCTION

Long-distance reflexives (LDRs) constitute an interesting phenomenon for theoretical linguistics because they pose a challenge to the standard theory of anaphor binding as put forth in Chomsky (1981) and subsequent revisions of it within the Principles-and-Parameters framework. The standard theory takes a reflexive pronoun to be an anaphor subject to the condition in (1) (henceforth, BCA), with the notion of a governing category as defined in (2):

(1) Binding Condition A
    An anaphor is bound in its governing category.

    \( \alpha \) is the governing category for \( \beta \) if and only if \( \alpha \) is the minimal category containing \( \beta \), a governor of \( \beta \), and a SUBJECT accessible to \( \beta \).

Long-distance reflexives are those that have their antecedents outside their governing categories. Their existence in any language would refute the BCA as a principle of UG under the assumption that these reflexives
are anaphors and that the antecedents outside their governing categories are indeed their most immediate binders. Much research in the past 15 or so years has been devoted to the task of ascertaining whether this problem should lead one to abandon or revise BCA, or to rethink the assumption that they are indeed anaphors that are directly bound long-distance. Furthermore, since the phenomenon of long-distance reflexivization seems more widespread in some languages than in others, any attempt to deal with the phenomenon must also keep such cross-linguistic variations in mind.

One of the most often talked about items in this subfield of binding theory is the reflexive pronoun ziji in Mandarin Chinese. Although Huang (1982) provided examples in which ziji could only be construed with a local antecedent (in compliance with BCA), he did not consider structurally similar examples in which it could prima facie be long-distance bound (in apparent violation of BCA). The first serious look at Mandarin reflexives was taken by Y.-H. Huang (1984) (cf. also Huang et al., 1984), where it was observed that (a) only the monomorphemic (“bare”) reflexive ziji ’self’, but not the polymorphemic taziji ‘himself/herself’ can be long-distance bound; (b) only subjects may qualify as antecedents; (c) long-distance binding may be blocked by certain local potential antecedents with φ-features distinct from those of the remote antecedent. Tang (1989) further noted that a “sub-commanding” subject may qualify as an antecedent under appropriate conditions. These properties—monomorphemicity, subject-orientation, sub-commanding, and blocking—as illustrated in (3a–d), respectively, constitute the basic properties of the Chinese reflexive which have been the subject of much study in recent years.

(3) a. Monomorphemicity:

\[\text{Zhangsan} \_\text{renwei} [\text{Lisi} \_\text{hen} \ ziji]/taziji.\]
\[\text{Zhangsan think Lisi hate self/himself}\]
\[\text{‘Zhangsan thinks that Lisi hates himself/him.’}\]

b. Subject-Orientation:

\[\text{Zhangsan} \_\text{song (gei) Lisi yi-zhang ziji}/de xiangpian.\]
\[\text{Zhangsan give to Lisi one-CL self’s picture}\]
\[\text{‘Zhangsan gives Lisi a picture of himself.’}\]

c. Sub-Commanding Antecedent:

\[\text{Zhangsan-de jiaoao hai-le ziji.}\]
\[\text{Zhangsan’s arrogance hurt-Perf self}\]
\[\text{‘Zhangsan’s arrogance harmed him.’}\]

d. Blocking Effects:

\[\text{Zhangsan \_\text{renwei} [ni \_\text{hen} ziji].}\]
\[\text{Zhangsan think you hate self}\]