HUANG Churen

COORDINATION SCHEMA AND CHINESE NP COORDINATION IN GPSG

RESUME


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O. INTRODUCTION : CHINESE NP COORDINATION

Three groups of conjunctions used in Chinese NP coordination can be distinguished semantically. The first group marks logical conjunction. It consists of ㄏ, ˊ, ˇ and other less frequently used variants. The second group marks inclusive disjunction; 重要因素 is the only member. Finally, exclusive disjunction is marked by htaking. As far as syntactic distribution is concerned, the three groups behave the same. The logical conjunction ㄏ serves as an example here(1).

1. a. Lão-Wáng, Lão-Lǐ, Lão-Zhāng
   b. Lão-Wáng, Lão-Lǐ, ㄏ Lão-Zhāng
   c. Lão-Wáng, ㄏ Lão-Lǐ, Lão-Zhāng
   d. Lão-Wáng, ㄏ Láo-Lǐ, ㄏ Láo-Zhāng
"Lao-Wang, Lao-Li, and Lao-Zhang"

1 shows that conjunctions with no overt marker and conjunctions marked by ㄏ can occur in almost any order. The only restriction is that no overt marker can precede the first conjunct(2) or follow the last conjunct(3). Coordinations with more than three conjuncts also follow this pattern.

There are two possible strategies for analyzing coordination structures. The first is to assign them a flat structure like 2a,

(1) ㄏ is the most commonly used conjunction for Mandarin Chinese speakers in Taiwan.

(2) Notice that this generalization is only true with Chinese NP coordination. Chinese VP coordination allows overt conjunctions to occur with the first conjunct. The NP generalization can be captured in GPSG by a Feature Cooccurrence Restriction. [+N, [CONJ 诰]] is part of the feature complex of the first member of an NP coordination, and [CONJ NIL] is part of a feature complex of a conjunct not marked by any overt conjunction. Rule i in effect guarantees that whenever a category is the firsts member of an NP coordination, it is also a conjunct marked by no overt conjunction.

(i) [+N, [CONJ 诰]] ⊃ [CONJ NIL]

(3) This fact was pointed out to me by Paul Li (p. c.). Logically it is possible to have conjunctions following conjuncts, though in fact this phenomenon rarely, if ever, happens in natural languages. I follow the standard assumption in attaching conjunctions to the left of the conjuncts.