A Study of Causal Complex Sentences in Chinese
~Focusing on explanation of causal sentences, counterfactual hypothetical sentences and inference
sentences expressing doubts~

WANG   YIHUAN

The causal complex sentence is one of the most multi-functional forms of complex sentences in Chinese. Studies of causal complex sentences has flourished since 20th century, and a lot of results have been accumulated. In addition, since the introduction of the concepts of presupposition and focus, the studies of focus in Chinese has been observed widely. However, little research has been conducted on the focus of complex sentences. Since it is essential to specify the part which is emphasized when we fixed the focus, first it will be clarified the presupposition, information focus, and contrastive focus of causal complex sentences. Then, it will be analyzed the purpose and the condition to apply these sentences, and the condition to move focus of the sentences to alter what they mean.

The complex sentences taken up in this study are the explanatory causal complex sentences derived by "Yinwei", the inference causal complex sentences derived by "Jiran", and the hypothetical sentences derived by "Ruguo". It was elucidated the presupposition and the focus of these sentences, subsequently it was analyzed the ambiguity of sentences meanings by the movement of the contrastive focus. Classification the complex sentences by focus was also investigated. When there are sentences with the same presupposition and focus but with different alternations, therefore it is considered that they might have different implications.

This paper consists of 5 chapters.

In Chapter 1, the purpose and the object of this study, background information, terms, and the method of data collection were described.

In Chapter 2, there is a discussion regarding the conditions for focusing the causative clause of the "Yinwei" sentence and the change in meaning due to focus-shifting. It will also pointed out that the focus in the causative-clause-focused sentence is a contrastive focus. The presence or absence of contrastive focus determines whether the causal clause can be focused or not, and that it is a necessary condition for the speaker to agree $p \rightarrow q$ (p leads to q).

In Chapter 3, the presupposition, focus, and ambiguity of focus movement in the counterfactual hypothetical sentence was considered. Due to classifying and contemplating the counterfactual hypothetical sentence according to whether it can be replaced with the "Yinwei⋯Cai" sentence, the substitutable class i is a sentence proving the exclusivity of $\neg p$, which is a negative proposition of the hypothetical clause content. Class ii, which cannot be replaced with the "Yinwei⋯Cai" sentence, proves that p, which is the content of the hypothetical clause, is false, and class iii, which is the content of the result clause, emphasizes the difficulty of realizing q.

In Chapter 4, the "Jiran" sentence which expresses a suspicious or negative attitude toward p

was conducted, and was considered the ambiguity of focus and focus shifting that the presupposition, information focus, and contrastive focus of the "Jiran" sentence by "lie" test and "Fouze" test was explicated. As a result, it was concluded that the presupposition and information focus of the "Jiran" sentence which expresses suspicion attitude are the opposite of those of the general "Jiran" sentence, and that the consequent clause is the contrastive focus. In this respect, it is similar to the counterfactual hypothetical sentence of class ii, but it is clarified that it has the characteristic of being more objective than the counterfactual hypothetical sentence. Finally, it was illustrated that the distinction between the "Yinwei" sentence and the "Jiran" sentence, which expresses suspicion attitude, in which the speaker wants to express suspicion or denial.

The final chapter, Chapter 5 summarized this study and discussed future issues.

In this study, a research was conducted on the focus of complex sentences, and clarified the information structure characteristics of causal complex sentences. In particular, we have established an algorithm for the presence or absence of contrastive focus and the change in meaning due to shifting. This is expected to elucidate the utterance intention in causal compound sentences and the pragmatic conditions in realizing the utterance intention, and would contribute to the development of NLP tools or second language education.