

**Article Summary of Huang 1984: "Phrase Structure, Lexical Integrity, and Chinese Compounds"**

Chinese grammar makes use of two independently formal principles, the Phrase Structure Condition (PSC) and the Lexical Integrity Hypothesis (LIH). However, these principles are contradicted by resultative (V-R) and verb-object (V-O) compounds in certain positions. Possible solutions, and their implications for linguistic analyses of Chinese compounds, are discussed.

Both the PSC and the LIH are motivated by their ability to express observable generalizations in Chinese grammar. By stating that the sentential head can only branch to the left once, and at the lowest level of expansion, the PSC prevents more than one constituent from following the verb. This requirement regulates the application of a number of constructions: subject-verb inversion is only permitted for intransitive verbs with no following adverbials; transitive verbs cannot be followed by an adverbial; and when *ba/bei* constructions are obligatory, it is because their non-*ba/bei* equivalents contain two constituents after the verb. Ungrammatical post-verb object-adverbial strings can be saved a number of ways, such as by reduplicating the verb between these two elements, by topicalizing one of the constituents, or by preposing the adverbial such that it becomes part of the preceding object NP. The LIH, which prevents phrase-level rules from affecting proper subparts of words, is similarly motivated by observed facts. For example, conjunction reduction, semantic interpretation rules, and anaphoric rules cannot apply to delete, see, or refer to the proper subpart of a word, respectively.

While these two principles are prominent in Chinese grammar, they pose problems for the analysis of V-R and V-O compounds. Compounds are characterized by the presence of a bound or neutral-toned component, a non-compositional meaning, an exocentric internal structure, or the inseparability of their parts. Excluding semantic noncompositionality, the remaining criteria are special cases of the LIH: neutral-toned items, which are usually bound, can be reduced to the LIH-consistent notion of inseparability; and the phrasal-level endocentricity principle cannot access compounds' internal exocentric structures. Although the LIH is the most important hypothesis used to analyze Chinese compounds, there are two cases in which it and the PSC can render an item both a word and a phrase, thus creating a paradox. Firstly, the same V-R compound can be a word in one context, by virtue of the PSC, and a phrase in another, when the LIH must allow application of an interpretation rule that excludes absurd readings. Secondly, many V-O compounds are separable and not followed by an object, rendering them phrases by the LIH and PSC, respectively; however, in another environment, the same V-O compounds are not separated and are followed by an object, rendering them words by the same two principles.

This article posits three ways in which the compound-phrase paradox can be resolved, the best motivated of which can lead to theoretical conclusions about Chinese compounds. Firstly, all V-R and V-O compounds may be listed in the lexicon as both words and phrases; independent principles would ensure that they are inserted as words before objects and phrases sentence-finally. The second solution is that all V-R and V-O compounds are listed as words in the lexicon, but undergo ionization sentence-finally, which relabels them as phrases. Thirdly, it is possible that all V-R and V-O compounds are listed as phrases in the lexicon, only undergoing lexicalization before objects in order to save the sentence from the PSC. Of these solutions, the third is considered the most plausible: lexicalization is independently motivated by the PSC, while ionization and the parallel structure hypothesis lack an independent principle which forces insertion of phrases sentence-finally; ionization also creates phrases from simple words, while lexicalization involves the more well-attested decreasing of structural complexity. This process of word-formation has affected items in degrees: some are inseparable and can take an object; others are inseparable only when they take an outer object; still others are separable and cannot take an outer object. This article argues that members of the first set are listed as true compounds in the lexicon, members of the second set are listed as idiom phrases that can undergo lexicalization, and members of the third set are listed as true phrases. Thus, the contradictory notion of 'separable compounds,' which do not obey the LIH, need not be posited.

In summary, the PSC and LIH figure prominently in Chinese. The problems that arise when compounds are identified by these principles can be resolved by arguing that most V-R and V-O compounds are phrases in the lexicon, becoming compounds only in certain environments.