

Windowing assemblies in Chinese and English use

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The Dui (coupling) pattern refers to linguistic phenomena in which linguistic units form one-to-one opposition at the form or meaning or structural level to make expressions self-sufficient. Globally, the concurrence of symmetrical and asymmetrical coupling patterns poses a challenge to both the constituency-oriented and dependency-oriented syntactic theories: although this coupling opposition contributes to the completion of linguistic chunks, it is not treated as a constituent; although this opposition forms a direct linkage, it is not analyzed as the syntactic dependency.

This paper proposes the layered and cyclic conceptual models to describe the coupling pattern in Chinese and English use, based on windowing assemblies in Cognitive Grammar, involving the four descriptive factors: elaboration, correspondence, profiling and constituency. The layered conceptual model motivates the formation of autonomous-dependent assemblies across linguistic windows out of which the subject-predicate frame emerges. In the extension of the subject-predicate frame, the agent-action dependence is schematized into the baseline-elaboration dependence, e.g. *A book is on the table* vs. *There is a book on the table*. The cyclic conceptual model motivates the formation of the coupling dependence across linguistic windows, out of which the Dui (coupling) frame emerges, e.g. *Nǐ shuō yì yán wǒ shuō yì yǔ* lit. you speak one word I speak one lexicon, which is intended to express We talk to each other. In the extension of coupling frame, the unbound reading of cyclic opposition at the meaning level is weakened to the bound one to schematize the coupled windowing, e.g. *Shānfēng shí gāo shí dī* (lit. mountain moment high moment low; Intended: The mountain goes up and down) vs. *Cóng nǎer lái huí nǎer qù* (lit. from where come go back where; intended: Go back where you came from). In Chinese and English use, the cyclic operation of opposition supports the subject-predicate coupling to accumulate its layers, and the selection of the layered model helps diversify the realization of coupling assemblies. The windowing assemblies with the dynamic prominence between the layered and cyclic models can be used as the general framework of the contrastive study of Chinese and English.

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