

## Original Paper

# Cognitive Research of Chinese Inverted Sentences under Radiation-Boundary Mark Theory Study

Wu Fangming<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of Literature, GuiZhou University of Finance and Economics, Guiyang City, Guizhou  
Province, China

\* Wu Fangming, Corresponding author

Received: August 07, 2023      Accepted: October 02, 2023      Online Published: October 23, 2023

doi:10.22158/wjer.v10n5p194      URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22158/wjer.v10n5p194>

### Abstract

*Inverted sentences are commonly used in English expression, and unconventional language order exists in Chinese from the cognitive perspective. It is found that in a specific context, the speaker intentionally highlights the topic focus and expresses the specific emotional color, which can be used as the pragmatic or cognitive reason for Chinese inversion sentences.*

### Keywords

*archery-boundary mark, prominent focus, unconventional language order, Chinese inverted sentences*

### Introduction

The statistical data of 1396 different language structures in Atlas of World Language Structure shows that there are dominant language order in 1297 languages, among which SOV is the most common, 564, followed by SVO, 488, 95 VSO, 25 VOS, 11 OVS, OSV, the most rare and only 4. SOV, SVO, and VSO three language order types about 85%; OV language order structure generally presents the following characteristics: Post (post), PPV (preposition phrase + verb predicate), GN (leading language + noun), RelN (Relational clause + noun), Sta A (difference sentence reference + adjectives), NArt (noun + title).

Generally, we think that Chinese is SVO language order, but not a typical SVO language order, Chinese language order is consistent with OV language order in many aspects; compared with the Indo-European language system, Chinese is not based on the lattice form or consistent relationship, it can be said that Chinese is not rigorous configuration.

At present, many pragmatists link information theory with syntactic structure, examine regular sentences and variant sentences from the perspective of information configuration, and regard inverted

sentences as a means of pragmatic reorganization. Xu Shenghuan believed that the inversion variant is a regulating device to realize the reasonable distribution of the information status of various components in sentences; Zhang Kading studied the inversion sentences and proposed five functions of inversion sentences. This paper will take the focus function of English inverted sentences to explain the phenomenon of inverted sentences in Chinese.

### **1. Ejection-Boundary Theory**

Shooting and boundary markers are different levels of spatial perception that people exist when they visually recognize things, and at the same time are the distinction of visual attention intensity and sequence, resulting in different levels of visual-spatial perception. Specifically, the visual can perceive things must be above a specific layer, namely the specific layer (the “layer” here can also be interpreted as “cognitive concept or perceptual range”), namely the focus of attention; the boundary mark is the foil part below the layer, which can be understood as the background. When our vision captures a specific object in a certain environment, we usually take the object as the perceptual prominent object and the underlying environment as the boundary mark. This is the principle of focus highlight, the relative size of the focus is the background blur; due to the perceptual physiological threshold, the target and the boundary mark always appear in the same perceptual field. Since the projector is the focus, the boundary mark is the structural feature of the non-focus, and the projector and the boundary mark will not be perceived simultaneously even if they are present at the same time in the perceptual field.

### **2. The Definition Scope of the Inverted Sentences**

In the first grammar book of China, Ma, the subject, verb, and object are defined; the transitional verb is named the external verb; “the first word is the first word, and the external verb is the second.” The book on the element configuration clearly shows that SVO is a normal language order;

Hu Yushu (1992) believes that the sentence can change the language order without changing the original semantic into inverted or variant sentences; Lu Jianming (1980) believes that the characteristics of translocation sentences are: stress, the center of meaning in the front part; the reversed component can be reset, the semantic does not change; the final tone follows the front part; Huang Jianping (2015) distinguishes the front structure, rear structure, external structure and reverse structure, and believes that the variant structure such as object front does not belong to the inverted sentence.

In short, an inverted sentence is an unconventional language order produced by changing the location of language order components or blocks in a specific context. In this paper, the front structure, rear structure, and external structure are uniformly delimited as the word order of inverted sentences.

### 3. Exploration of Cognitive Reasoning

In this paper, the first two episodes of the TV series “Guandong” are selected as a small corpus, and a total of five inverted sentences appeared. respectively:

A: I don’t want the gold and silver mountains.

B: Your father can’t lose this idea.

C: I’ll explain it first.

D: Dad, I mother, you can rest assured

E: Go first.

ABCD sentence argument configuration structure is similar, which is the OSV structure, the object in the original sentence, followed by SV; D sentence leads the predicate component, followed by the dynamic aid “up” at the end of the sentence, attached to the verb. Therefore, we will summarize the rationality of the existence of inverted sentences into the following aspects:

#### 3.1 Deliberately Highlight the Topic Focus

Based on the perspective of information structure, there is old and new information, which is generally the important information intended by the speaker to express first; the old information is known and does not need the emphasis of the speaker. This kind of word order exchange highlights the projectiles on the layer, The corresponding landmarks are taken as the background, And it highlights the topic and emphasizes the new information, Focus on the layers where the projectile exists, Correspondingly, it highlights the existence of the projectile; Such as “I don’t want” is the hero Xian er decided to follow the poor fiance to the east, A line of his attitude and true thought in the face of his father’s obstruction, The original word order is “I don’t want gold and silver mountains”, Leading the object ahead, Priority is intended to focus the listener’s hearing or brain power on the “gold and silver mountains” of new information, “Gold and silver mountains” is also the focus of the overall information to show that the gold and silver wealth that others care about is not what I care about, What I care about is my firm determination to be with my fiance, whether poor or rich.

Similarly, “this idea your dad can’t lose”, “there is a sentence I explained first”, “Dad, a niang you rest assured” and “go first” sentence priority throw this new information to cause the listener to hear, mental attention, object composition “front” the idea, “sentence”, a Niang “boundary into radiation to achieve” I can’t lose this idea “I have to explain this sentence” don’t miss my Niang communication content transmission effect.

Here’s the following conversation:

A: How are you doing this year?

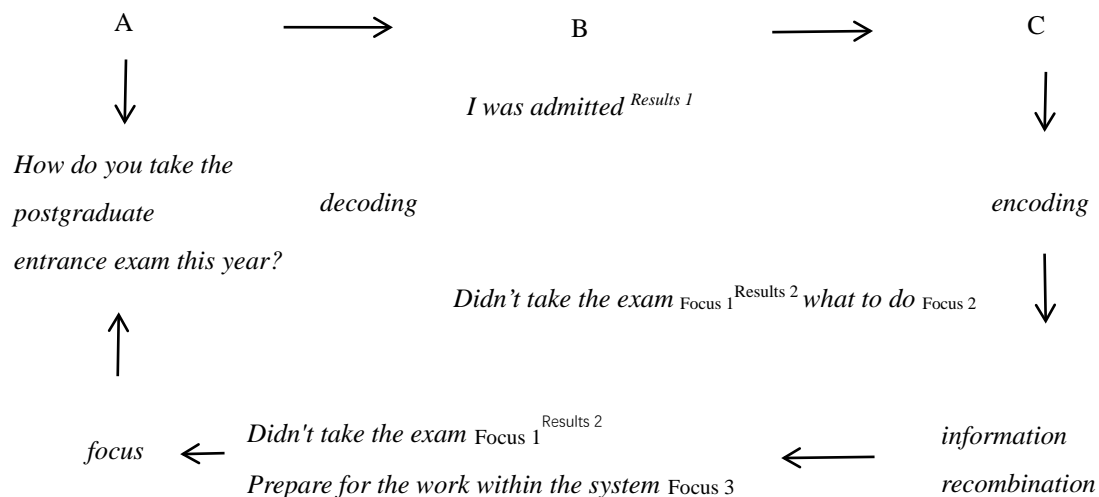
B: I didn’t pass the exam.

Variant VOP regular PV0

The exam is compiled in the exam

Clearly, in this variant relationship, To transmit important information to listener A, speaker B “tests” the reference components to the priority position, The preposition “in” as a foil is no longer a necessary

factor for effective information in the dialogue; “Examination” located on the radiation layer is a necessary component of the effective factors in the dialogue, One is based on the contextual context presented in the dialogue, The event information that questioner A was initially concerned about was an unknown “outcome”, But when the caller, B says, “No,” The focus of speaker A naturally shifted from “outcome” to the topic of “the next step”, The corresponding interlocutor B will instinctively decode and encode after receiving this information, And those who can decipher the starter will focus on “what you intend to do”. therefore, Speaker B drops the object on the “exam” when coding. The process of both parties putting the “examination” on the focus position is shown in the figure below:



**Figure 1. The Coding of Inverted Sentences**

### 3.2 Express the Emotional Color

Speakers are eager to know something or eager to express feelings of specific emotions, appear in the subject-predicate inversion sentence pattern, and the sentence after the tone will lack a few minutes of peace of emotion, especially as the subject of the second person “you” and predicate after translocation can show more impatience, anger, blame, negative emotions, after the second person “you” the negative emotions appear lower than “you”, the first person “I”, “we” than the first person “you” “you” translocation after the mood soft degree is higher, such as:

Aquatic recovered the paper boxes, one hand raised high, one hand to beat the water so that he did not sink. To the lotus lake shouted: “Come out, you!” As if with a great gas. (Lotus Lake, Sun Li)

First, understand the context of the above-inverted sentences.

Aquatic sister-in-law several young women in visiting the soldiers to return encountered the enemy of the raid, as a soldier of several husbands in the hidden lotus lake with the enemy to protect the young women, aquatic see originally cheerful women soaked by the invasion of the enemy, the aquatic heart both love these struggling to visit their women, on the other hand, is very hate the Japanese soldiers broke the original quiet no smoke life, so aquatic water to hide in the lotus bush women talking heart is

with hatred for the invaders and double affection for the women.” You come out” the subject after the exchange of language order “come out, you!” Gives the protagonist more emotional color than the normal word order, compared to the” you come out “word order is more peaceful; and the subject of the trans sentence” Come out, you!” More in line with the fierce character of the soldier water, more can reflect the water at that time both anger and pity of multiple emotions.

Again such as:

A: Say, ah, you!

B: Eat it up, you, don’t talk.

C: Dream of you!

D: Come on, let us.

In the A sentence, “Say, you!” It is generally used in the context where one party is eager to know what happened to the other side, and the other party hesitates to explain the truth, when the speaker unconsciously inverted the subject and verb, strengthening the tone of the same time reflects the speaker’s impatience, impatient, waiting for the mood. B, C sentence shows impatience, blame, and other negative emotions, and A sentence “Say you!”. As equal; and the emotions in D sentence” Go, we “are scattered, one may be that the speaker has no obvious emotional fluctuations, the second may be that the speaker is impatient or urging, but even so, with the first person” we “, the negative emotions of the whole sentence are weak and insignificant.

We can compare the degree of experience change:

**Table 1. The Value of Emotional Embodiment**

Translocation sentence	Let’s go, you	Let’s go, we	Let’s go, us
mood	★★★★★	★ ★ ★	★
Show value			

In order not to affect the emotional differences after feeling the first person, the second person, and the predicate speech, the punctuation mark is deliberately omitted.

### 3.3 Syntactic Interpretation

Inverted sentences belong to the problem of word order. The study of inverted sentences is actually studying the problem of word order. The study of language order covers syntactic, pragmatic, semantic, and cognitive aspects. The syntactic discussion is to follow the structure of the surface sign system of cognitive evidence. The core front is the basic expression form of Chinese inverted sentences.

#### 4. Summary

At present, the research on the language order phenomenon of Chinese inverted sentences is not very sufficient. Most scholars regard inverted sentences as a kind of unconventional language order, but do not clearly use the concept of “inverted sentences”. Xu Guozhang, Wang Yin, and Yang Zhuangchun used the principle of cognitive linguistics to explain the causes of the inverted sentences. Yang Zhuangchun believed that the rhetoric could be explained by distance, but still caused a lot of controversy. Based on the theory of radiation-boundary marks, the focus highlights the function that can be used to explain the cognitive evidence of Chinese inverted sentences, and the phenomenon of Chinese inverted sentences is also a language order phenomenon worthy of our attention and research. This study is just a starting point, and there are many shortcomings. On the one hand, inverted sentences belong to the problem of language order, and the study of inverted sentences cannot be separated from the problem of word order. The study of inverted sentences in Chinese at the level of syntax, pragmatic, and semantic language should also be put on the agenda. In this paper, the research data on Chinese inverted sentences are insufficient; on the other hand, in the second “express emotional color” in the third part of “inversion sentences,” cognitive reason, the negative emotion degree of the first person of the subject and the second person and the verb; in addition, the Chinese inversion sentence is not very comprehensive; in addition, there is a lack of classification research on Chinese inverted sentences, and the structure level has room for optimization. However, the interest in Chinese language order was found in this study, and the research on Chinese language order can be continued.

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