The Structural Relationship between Question and Answer in Korean

: Focused on the word order of the answer

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This study investigates the structure-building process of a *congruent answer* (Krifka 2001) in Korean, which is paired with the preceding question. Since Korean, which is SOV and *wh*-in-situ language, has a flexible word order and both the questions and the answers can show variations like those in (1) and (2).

(1) a. Meli-ka mwues-ul ilk-ess-ni?   b. Mwues-ul Meli-ka ilk-ess-ni?   c. Mwues-ul ilk-ess-ni, Meli-ka?
('What does Mary read?')

(2) a. Meli-ka sosel-ul ilk-ess-ta.   b. Sosel-ul Meli-ka ilk-ess-ta.   c. Sosel-ul ilk-ess-ta, Meli-ka.
('Mary reads a novel.')

This variation in word order is generally attributed to the syntactic operation called *scrambling*. However, this issue is complex due to various factors influencing sentence production in (2) (Bock 1977, Lee 2006, Vermeulen 2012, and Yim 2011). We will investigate how the syntactic structure (or word order), information structure, and prosodic structure of sentences produced as responses vary according to the structure of questions, through three experiments. The first two experiments were conducted, following the priming paradigm (Pickering and Branigan 1999). Experiment 1 verified whether the questions' order significantly affects the answers'. Experiment 2 was differed from the experiment 1 only in that the *wh*-elements in questions were the adjuncts, not the arguments. In Experiment 3, the prosody—focal stress and intonation—of the question and the answer, both produced by the same participant, was collected and analyzed using Praat. For all experiments, questions will consist solely of noun phrases marked with structural Case (the nominative marker *-ga* and the accusative marker *-ul*). Explanations will be provided regarding the reasons for the realization of topic markers *-un* combined with the nominals in participants' responses.

These experiments will explore whether the strategies of recycling (Frazier 2013) or copying preceding utterance structures occur during response production, and if so, whether they occur at all structural levels. This research could serve as crucial data for subsequent studies on mechanisms operating in syntactic, prosodic, and discourse information during language production.

<keywords>
word order, focus structure, prosodic structure, prime effect, linearization

References

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