Abstract

Greenberg (1963: 87) proposes 3 ordering patterns among Demonstrative (Dem), Numeral (Num), Adjective (Adj), and the head Noun (N) in 24 possible orderings, among which Dem> Num> A> N is observed in prenominal position. Either N> Dem> Num> A or N> A> Num> Dem is found in postnominal position. This is known as Universal 20 in Greenberg (1963: 87). Cinque (2005: 317) attests 14 possible orders and argues the fixed prenominal order of Dem> Num> A> N is generated through the external merger operation, while the rest 13 ordering patterns are realized by moving the subtree containing NP to different C-commanding specifier positions with or without pied-piping.

In fact, we can also see the predemonstrative position of adjectives exists in Mandarin Chinese (Williams 1998) as shown in (1). The order Dem> A> Num> N in Korean in (2) (Joo 2013). I will name these two orders (excluded in Universal 20) as the Marked Prenominal Patternrs, which will be discussed in the study.

(1) huangse-de na liang-zhi gou (adapted from Williams 1998)

    yellow-DE that two-CL dog

    'those two yellow dogs'

    A> Dem> Num> N

(2) ce   ppalkan twu-kay-uy   sakwa (Joo 2013)

    that red two-CL-GEN apple

    'those two red apples'

    Dem> A> Num> N

Two questions are mainly discussed: (1) what is the derivation process of the two prenominal alternative patterns; (2) what's the motivation for the flexible node of A (/AP) in terms of syntactic motivation and semantic compostionality.

Different from the NP & remnant movement (Cinque 2005; 2010) and the nominal-internal phrasal movement (Zhang 2015), I adapt the agreement theory in Minimalist Inquiries (Chomsky 2000), and assume a cyclic-AP movement for the derivation. In my proposal, I agree a [+Referential] feature exists upon Dem when A precedes Dem as in (1) but a property-interpretation (non-referential) exists when A precedes N (like the fixed prenominal pattern) (Li 2001). I assume the cyclic movement moves from Spec-nP to Spec-NumP to Spec-DP to Spec-DemP (by taking DEM is DP-External approach), and the unvalued relevant features on A are checked and valued via the agreement operation (by a cyclic movement). If acceptable, this approach can also explain the derivation of AP in Dem> A> Num > N in Korean as seen in (2), thus we can see the motivation for the syntactic flexibility of A (/AP) in pre-nominal patterns.

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