

## Light Switches between Japanese/Korean and English

Recent research in code-switching has shown that not only can a switch occur between languages with different canonical word order (*contra* Poplack *et al.* 1990; Sankoff & Maineville 1986; Sankoff *et al.* 1990), as in Japanese (SOV)-English(SVO) or Korean(SOV)-English(SVO), but the internal order of a code-switched constituent may also vary, exhibiting either order of the two languages involved in code-switching. Under the assumption that code-switching is not a random process, but is rule-governed, researchers have proposed various accounts in order to derive word order in code-switching, with a particular focus on the VO *vs.* OV contrast.

The head parameter approach argues that the language of the verb determines the position of the object (MacSwan 1999; Mahootian 1993; Nishimura 1997). Under this view, it is predicted that when the verb comes from Japanese or Korean, the word order is predicted to be OV. On the other hand, if an English verb is chosen, VO order would be obtained. However, this prediction is not borne out. In (1) and (2), the verb comes from English, yet the unexpected OV order is observed in (2), in addition to the predicted VO sequence in (1).

Chan (2003, 2008) proposes an alternative account that argues that a bilingual speaker who speaks both a VO and an OV language has access to either order freely in his production, and once the order is determined, lexical words are inserted from either language later on. However, Chan's claim that word order variation is a choice at the production level does not support his original attempt to provide a universal account which governs code-switching and monolingual speech alike. To my knowledge, there is no single satisfactory account to explain how VO and OV alternate in code-switching. This paper aims to provide a unified structural account of VO/OV word order mismatch, as attested in Japanese-English and Korean-English code-switching literature.

A careful analysis of (1) and (2) reveals that (i) the constituent which is code-switched into English precedes the Japanese light verb *suru* 'do' and the Korean light verb *ha* 'do', and (ii) the OV/VO contrast is closely related to the *heavy vs. light* distinction of the verb within the code-switched constituent: While the verbs in (2) are *heavy* in the sense that they deliver lexical semantic information to their clausal structure, the verbs in (1) are *light* and have little semantic content of own but only deliver aspectual information. The distinction between heavy *vs.* light verbs is more prominent in the contrast between (2c) and (1c), which is a minimal pair involving the verb *put*. In (2c), *put* is construed literally, as a verb of transferral, in *put the toys in the basket*. On the contrary, *put* lacks this literal meaning in *put the burden on myself* in (1c), in which, I argue, *put* lexicalizes CAUS as a light verb. Under the assumption that OV is derived from VO via leftward movement of the object into the specifier of *v* (the Case-checking light verb) (Kayne 1994), I will argue that when light verbs are selected from *Japanese* or *Korean*, the OV sequence is generated, following the grammar of Japanese/Korean. On the contrary, selection of an *English* light verb will result in the English-style VO order in the derivation.

The structures in (3) and (4) represent the underlying structures of (1) and (2), respectively. In (3), the abstract head CAUS/INCH is lexically realized by an English light verb (e.g. *keep, catch, put*), and will behave like English CAUS/INCH does: it checks (accusative) case against the nearest DP, but does not attract this DP overtly into its specifier position. Consequently, (3) delivers the English-style VO order within CAUSP/INCHP. In (4), by contrast, CAUS/INCH is itself null/empty and selected by DO=*suru*<sup>JAP</sup> or *ha*<sup>KOR</sup>. Since null CAUS/INCH has no inherent language content, it adopts the linguistic properties of its selecting environment, which is Japanese/Korean, OV: it triggers leftward movement, resulting in OV. In both (3) and (4), the entire CAUSP/INCHP will raise to the left of DO=*suru*<sup>JAP</sup> or *ha*<sup>KOR</sup>, which derives the desired surface word order, V-O-*suru/ha* in (1) and O-V-*suru/ha* in (2).

The present analysis argues that (i) code-switching occurs at the light verb level in Japanese-English and Korean-English, supporting Bandi-Rao and Den Dikken (2004), and (ii) VO *vs.* OV order in Japanese-English and Korean-English code-switching is determined by the selection of light verbs from either English or Japanese/Korean.

- **V-O-suru/ha**
- (1) a. *yooshi* keep an eye *suru-zo* *Japanese-English*  
 well I'm going to DO-PRT Namba n.d.: 24, (46)  
 'well, I'm really going to keep an eye on you'
- b. catch up cold-*ha-myen* *Korean-English*  
 -DO-if Park 1990:136, (141)  
 'If (you) catch up a cold...'
- c. put the burden on myself-*ha-ketunyo* *Korean-English*  
 -DO-DECL Park 1990:136, (142)  
 '(I) put the burden on myself'
- **O-V-suru/ha**
- (2) a. one algebra question-*o* mark-*shite* *Japanese-English*  
 -ACC -DO Nishimura 1995: 135, (11b)  
 '(you) mark one algebra question, and...'
- b. assistantship apply-*ha-i(>hay)* *noh-ass-eyo* *Korean-English*  
 -DO-LNK put-PAST-DECL Park 1990:189, (251)  
 '(I) applied for an assistantship'
- c. Meena, basket-*an-eyta* all the toys-*lul ppali* put-*ha-ko* *cip-ey ka-ca*  
 -inside-LOC -ACC quickly -DO-COMP home-LOC go-ADH  
 'Meena, let's put all the toys in the basket quickly and go home' K-E Lee 1991:144, (20)
- (3) a. DO=*suru*<sup>JAP</sup> [CAUS=*keep*<sup>ENG</sup> [SC DP<sub>sub</sub> Pred ]] = (1a)  
 b. DO=*ha*<sup>KOR</sup> [INCH=*catch*<sup>ENG</sup> [SC DP<sub>sub</sub> Pred ]] = (1b)  
 c. DO=*ha*<sup>KOR</sup> [CAUS=*put*<sup>ENG</sup> [GO [SC DP<sub>sub</sub> Pred ]]] = (1c)
- (4) DO=*suru*<sup>JAP</sup>/*ha*<sup>KOR</sup> [CAUS/INCH=Ø [VP V DP ]] = (2)

### Selected References

- Bandi-Rao, S. & M. den Dikken. 2004. Light Switches. *To appear in* MacSwan, J. (ed.). MIT Press.
- Chan, B. H-S. 2003. *Aspects of the syntax, the pragmatics, and the production of code-switching*. Peter Lang.
- Chan, B. H-S. 2008. Code-switching, word order and the lexical/functional category distinction. *Lingua* 118, 777-809.
- Lee, M-H. 1991. *A parametric approach to code-mixing*. Doctoral dissertation: State University of New York at Stony Brook.
- MacSwan, J. 1999. *A minimalist approach to intrasentential codeswitching*. New York, London: Garland.
- Namba, K. n.d. Japanese-English children's code-switching: applying the MLF model to two siblings' data. <http://www.senri.ed.jp/research/re11/KNamba.pdf>
- Nishimura, M. 1995. Varietal conditioning in Japanese/English code-switching. *Language Sciences* 17(2), 123-145.
- Nishimura, M. 1997. *Japanese/English code-switching: syntax and pragmatics*. New York: Peter Lang
- Park, J. 1990. *Korean/English intrasentential code-switching: matrix language assignment and linguistic constraints*. Doctoral dissertation: University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.