A Typological Study of Positive-Negative Questions in Chinese Minority Languages

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Abstract: *This paper utilizes the method of typology to analyze and compare the structural forms of X-Neg-X positive-negative questions in VO and OV languages in ethnic minority languages in China. It is concluded that the positive-negative questions in VO and OV languages contain implicational universals and dominant word order, which roughly reflects the typological characteristics of positive-negative questions in ethnic minority languages in China.*

Keywords: *Chinese minority languages, positive-negative questions, typological characteristics, implicational universals*

1. Introduction

In order to sort out and compare the type and characteristics of positive-negative questions in Chinese minority languages, the minority languages in China are grossly classified and analyzed as the VO and OV types. From the geographical point of view, Hmong-Mien and Zhuang-Dong languages in the Sino-Tibetan language family, Austroasiatic languages and Austronesian languages are located in the south and southeast of China and belong to the VO language. Altaic and most Tibeto-Burman languages are located in the north, west and southwest of China, belonging to the OV type language. The distribution pattern of minority languages in China from south to north is generally VO language to OV language. On the basis of consulting the published corpus, this paper analyzes and discusses the positive-negative questions in VO and OV minority languages in China, so as to obtain the typological characteristics of positive-negative questions in domestic minority languages.

2. Syntactic position of positive-negative questions

Chinese scholars have different classification standards for positive-negative questions. It is generally believed that positive-negative questions are a kind of interrogative sentences, which belong to interrogative sentences in parallel with yes-no questions, selective questions and specific questions. But there are also classifications from different perspectives and according to different standards. For example, Zhu Dexi (1982) divided interrogative sentences into yes-no questions, specific questions and choice questions, and regarded positive-negative questions as a special choice question. Lu Jianming (1982) believes that interrogative sentences include specific questions, choice questions and yes-or questions, and choice questions contain positive-negative questions. Mr. Fan Jiyan (1982) divided interrogative sentences into specific questions and selective questions, but yes-no questions and positive-negative questions are a special form of selective questions. Mr. LV Shuxiang (1985) divided interrogative sentences into two basic types: specific question and yes-no question, and believed that positive and negative question and selective question are derived from right and wrong question. In this paper, the general quartering method is directly adopted for the classification of interrogative sentences, that is, positive and negative interrogative sentences are regarded as interrogative sentences parallel to yes-no sentences, selective questions and specific questions.

Positive-negative questions are a kind of interrogative sentences, also known as repeated questions. It refers to the repeated combination of affirmative and negative questions with the predicate or predicate head, that is, the question form of x-neg-x. Positive-negative questions require the listener to make corresponding positive and negative answers. Generally, interrogative pronouns and interrogative modal particles are not used, and interrogative modal particles at the end of the sentence are rarely used. Sometimes, interrogative modal particles at the end of the sentence such as "ah", "Ma" and "Na" only appear, rather than "Ba" and "Ma" etc. modal particles.

Complete and simplified forms of positive-negative questions, such as:

"ŋi214 ɕiŋ53 fu35 pu35 ɕiŋ53 fu35?">"ŋi214 ɕiŋ53 pu35 ɕiŋ53 fu35?"

"tha33 ʂʅ53 lau214 ʂʅ33 bu35 ʂʅ53 lau214 ʂʅ33?">"tha33 ʂʅ53 lau214 ʂʅ33 bu35 ʂʅ53?">"tha33 ʂʅ53 lau214 ʂʅ33 pu53?"

Complete and simplified forms of positive-negative questions, such as: Question:"ŋi214 tu35 mei35 tu35 tʂə53 pen214 ʂu33?"

Answer: "wo214 tu35 lə31 tʂə53 pen214 ʂu33">"wo214 tu35 lə31">"tu35 lə31".

As a special expression of interrogative sentence, it generally does not appear interrogative modal particles and interrogative auxiliary words. Therefore, some people will question if all x-neg-x sentences are positive and negative interrogative sentences? The answer is, of course, No. From the study of Chinese interrogative sentences, not all the positive and negative repetitions of syntactic components can enter the system of positive and negative interrogative sentences. X-neg-x structure can appear in different syntactic positions and act as different grammatical components, so some belong to positive-negative questions, while others are not. Only when the positive and negative repeated part is in the position of the predicate part, it is a positive and negative question that needs to make an alternative answer of positive and negative. The syntactic position of x-neg-x in the sentence is as follows:

1) Subject position: X-neg-x sentences that appear in the subject position generally take the positive and negative options as the subject components of known information and do not represent the narration of unknown information, so they are mostly declarative rather than interrogative. There are also interrogative sentences with x-neg-x in the subject position in Chinese.

It is not difficult to find that the above questions with x-neg-x in the subject position is actually a special form of yes-no question, because from the perspective of listener, this kind of question does not need the listener to answer the positive or negative items in x-neg-x, but needs to answer "yes" or "no" to the correctness of the whole event, which is in line with the pragmatic characteristics of yes-no questions. Therefore, the question of x-neg-x in the subject position is not a positive and negative question, and the x-neg-x expression of the positive and negative question is not in the subject position.

2) Predicate position: X-neg-x in the predicate position makes the predicate part act as unknown new information in the sentence, and requires the listener to choose positive or negative components to answer, so the question sentence in the predicate position of x-neg-x is a positive and negative question.

3) Object position: The first and second sentences belong to positive-negative questions because they contain the interrogative structure information that requires the listener to make a positive or negative choice; the third and fourth sentences do not contain the corresponding question information structure that needs the listener to answer, so they are not positive-negative questions.

4) Attributive position: Consistent with the situation of being the subject, the structural form of x-neg-x does not represent the function of positive-negative questions, so the sentence in the attributive position of x-neg-x is not a positive and negative question.

5) Adverbal position: As in the case of predicate, x-neg-x in the adverbial position also expresses unknown new information, and the listener also needs to choose one of the positive and negative answers. Therefore, the question sentence in the adverbial position of x-neg-x is a positive and negative question.

6) Complement position: As above, x-neg-x in the complement position also expresses unknown new information, and the listener also needs to choose one of the positive and negative answers. Therefore, the question sentence in the complement position of x-neg-x is also a positive and negative question sentence.

7) Additional position: Generally speaking, the syntactic position of the x-neg-x structure that can make the interrogative sentence become a positive and negative question generally appears in the predicate position, object position, adverbial position, complement position and adjunct position. Therefore, it is judged that x in the x-neg-x structure can be verb phrase (VP), adjective phrase (AP), prepositional phrase (PP) and adverb phrase (AdvP).

3. Types and universal features of positive-negative questions in Chinese VO languages

Minority languages with word order type of VO are mostly analytical languages. The positional relationship between subject predicate object and definite complement is generally fixed and will not be

changed informally. Therefore, the word order of interrogative sentences will not change at will. The position in the grammatical relations such as subject predicate, verb object, partial correction and verb complement cannot be changed as well. The interrogative category of positive-negative questions is mostly reflected by the predicate part, that is, the positive and negative superposition of predicates represents the interrogative category. In the sentence, except for the syntactic components representing the interrogative category, the word order of other parts remains unchanged.

3.1 The type of positive-negative questions

3.1.1 Hmong-Mien language family

In the Hmong-Mien language family, the positive-negative questions composed of the positive and negative forms of the predicate are often overlapped by the positive and negative forms of a single verb, that is, v-neg-v positive-negative questions, such as:

Hmong language: məŋ31 məŋ44 ʨu53 məŋ44?(Yu Jinzhi, 2010)
　　　　　　　you　　go　　not　　go
　　　　　　　Do you go or not?
Bu-Nao language: mɯ31 ʐau 31 mɯ55 ʐau 31?(Meng Chaoji, 2001)
　　　　　　　you　　go　　not　　go
　　　　　　　DO you go or not?
Mien language: mwei2 ko:ŋ3 ʦei4 n̩5 ʦei4?(Mao zongwu, 2004)
　　　　　　　you　say　yes　not　yes
　　　　　　　Do you say yes or not?
Pa-Hng language: mɨ44 kɔ31 ŋɦ33 kɔ31?(Mao Zongwu & Li Yunbing, 1997)
　　　　　　　You　speak　not　speak
　　　　　　　Can you speak or not?
She language: muŋ2 pɔ5 ha6 pɔ5?(Mao Zongwu & Meng Chaoji, 1986)
　　　　　　　You sleep not sleep
　　　　　　　Do you sleep or not?
Kiong Nai language: θa35ðei35 lɔ3 naŋ22 maŋ33 ŋŋ31 ŋ53 ŋŋ31? (Mao Zongwu, 2002)
　　　　　　　tomorrow raining　you　　go　not　go
　　　　　　　If it rains tomorrow, will you go?

If the predicate is composed of verb phrases, such as auxiliary verbs plus verbs to form VP neg VP positive-negative questions, the verb phrases can appear completely before and after the negative word.

Pu Nu language:ni4 ntsau1 muŋ4 ma2 ntsau1 muŋ4?(Meng Chaoji, 2001)

　　　　　　　He　can　go　　not　　can　go
　　　　　　　Can he go or not?

Usually influenced by the principle of language economy, the modal component or complement component in the latter verb phrase is often omitted in the vp-neg-vp structure to form the structural form of VP-neg-V positive-negative questions, such as:

Pu Nu language:hɛ31 pʦaŋ31 ʨhi31 a44 mu44 pʦaŋ31?(Meng Chaoji, 2001)
　　　　　　　They come　all　COM　not　come
　　　　　　　Are they all here?
　　　　　　　mɯ31 ntsau55 muŋ31 ma33 ntsau55?(Meng Chaoji, 2001)
　　　　　　　you　　can　go　　not　can?
　　　　　　　Can you go or not?

If there is an object after the predicate, it can be omitted into the form of "v-neg-vo" or "vo-neg-v", such as:

Jiong Nai language:
　　　　　　　laŋ1 ku5nai2 mi1 me3 ŋ3 ma3 va4?(Mao Zongwu& Li Yunbing, 2002)
　　　　　　　 CL old man that scold not scold I
　　　　　　　Did the old man scold me or not?
She language: muŋ2 ŋŋ4 taŋ6 ɔŋ2 ha6 ŋŋ4?(Mao Zongwu et al., 1986)
　　　　　　　you　 go fetch water not go
　　　　　　　Are you going to fetch water or not ?

However, when the negative word is composed of more complex verb phrases, especially the verb object behind it, which constitutes the structure of VPO-neg-VPO, the same components carried by the first verb in the structure VPO-neg-VPO are often omitted to form the structure of V-neg-VPO. When

the verb object phrase in the following example overlaps affirmative and negative, the object of the first verb can be omitted, and the complement of the first verb can be omitted in the verb complement phrase.

Pa Hng language:mɯ44 ɕi53 a31 ɕi53 va35 kɦwɤ31tɔ35? (Mao & Li, 1997)

     You are not are two brothers
     Whether you are two brothers or not?

Pu Nu Language:mɯ31 au31 mɯ44 au55 tha31 nda24?(Meng, 2001)

     You go not go fetch water
     Are you going to fetch water or not?

3.1.2. Zhuang-Dong languages

In the language of the Zhuang-Dong language family, the form of v-neg-v is often used to express positive-negative questions. For example:

Zhuang language:sou1 ɣo4 bou3 ɣo4(ne6)?(Wei & Tai, 1980)

     You know not know MODAL
     Do you know or not?

Dai language:xau1 ma2 bau5 ma2?(Yu & Luo, 1980)

     He come not come
     Will he come or not ?

Secondly, if the two predicates connecting affirmative and negative overlapping forms in the Zhuang-Dong languages have the same object and complement at the same time, and they form a VP neg VP structure, such as:

Zhuang language:aen gumz neix gvak laeg mbouj gvak laeg(ha)?(Wei & Tan, 1980)

     CL pit this dig deep not dig deeply
     Shall this pit be dug deeply or not?

Pu Yi language: pau35 ni31 kɯn13 jan13 mi11 kɯn13 jan13?(Zhou & Liu, 2018)

     Old man this smoke tobacco not smoke tobacco
     Does the old man smoke or not?

These two combined same predicates can have the same object or complement respectively. Sometimes, the same object can be omitted. Generally, the object of the former predicate is omitted, and the object of the latter predicate, VP neg VPO, is left. However, the former predicate usually rarely carries an object or complement alone.

Zhuang language: sou rox mbouj rox saw(ha)?(Wei & Than, 1980)

     You recognize not recognize literate
     Can you recognize literates or not?

Biaohua:mu2 suk8 m̩1 suk8 tsau2 jo6?(Liang, 2002)

     you know not know plough land
     Can you plough?

Bu Yi language:pau35 ni31 kɯn13 mi11 kɯn13 jan13?(Zhou & Liu, 2018)

     Old man this smoke not smoke tobacco
     Does the old man smoke or not?

The positive-negative questions in Zhuang-Dong languages can also use a verb phrase and a negative word to form the structure of VP-neg to express the positive-negative questions. For example:

Bu Yi language:pau35 ni31 kɯn13 jan13 mi11?(Zhou & Liu, 2018)

     Old man this smoke tobacco not
     Does the old man smoke or not?

Lin Gao language:mə2 lai3 eŋ1 tok7 mən2 lai3?(Zhang et al., 1985)

     You have brothers not have
     Do you have brothers or not?

Shui language:a2 diu5 gau5 dai1 tsie1 me2?(Zhang Junru, 1985)

     You taste try delicious not
     Try it to see if it tastes good or not?

Dong language:a2 ɬe1 əu4 kwe2?(Shi, 1997)

     You eat dinner not
     Do you eat or not?

Li language:meɯ1 de:ŋ1 hwo:k7 ta1?(Oyang & Zheng, 1980)

     You do agree not
     Do you agree or not?

In addition to the positive and rhetorical structure types with overlapping affirmative and negative

predicates, there are also derived types AB-neg-AB and a neg- AB, such as:

Dai language：pə4tsin6 naːu1 ɓau5 naːu1？（Yu & Luo, 1980)
　　　　　　　Beijing cold　　not　　cold
　　　　　　　Is Beijing cold or not?
Zhuang language:aen gumz neix gvak laeg mbouj laeg(ha)?(Wei & Tan, 1980)
　　　　　　　CL　pit　this　dig deep　not　dig deeply
　　　　　　　Shall this pit be dug deeply or not?

3.1.3 Austronesian languages

There are also positive and negative overlapping x-neg-x structures in Austronesian languages to express positive-negative questions. For example:

Hui Hui Language:zai33ni33 ʔan33 pu33 ʔan33? (Zheng, 1997)
　　　　　　　today　　　cold　not　cold
　　　　　　　Is today cold or not?
　　　　　　　nau33 a:i32 pu33 a:i32?
　　　　　　　He　come　not　come
　　　　　　　Does he come or not?

Except Tsat language, there is no positive and negative question construction of "x-neg-x" in other languages of the Austronesian language family (mainly distributed in Taiwan) (Sun Hongkai, 2009), indicating that the "x-neg-x" structure is not a common interrogative structure type in the South Island language family.

3.1.4 Austroasiatic languages

In the Austroasiatic languages in China, we can often see the positive and negative question structure of x-neg-x. Such as Braun, Buxing, De'ang, jing, Khame, Kham, etc.

Bulang language:mɤŋ2 xai3 hɔn4 un2 hɔn4?(Li Daoyong, 1986)
　　　　　　　Menghai　　hot not hot
　　　　　　　Is Menghai hot or not?
Buxing language:mi nɔˀ　　tɛˀ　ba　nɔˀ tɛˀ lin?(Gao Yongqi, 2004)
　　　　　　　You like　dancing not dancing
　　　　　　　Do you like dancing or not?
Jing language: la5tə2 nai2 faːi3 khoŋ1 faːi3 mai3 viət7?
　　　　　　　CL　letter　do　not　do　you　write
　　　　　　　Does this letter wrote by you or not?
Kham language:me tɕhai pu tɕhai sok?(Chen Guoqing, 2002)
　　　　　　　You can not can smoke
　　　　　　　Can you smoke or not?
Wa language:pon hu maiʔ ʔaŋ pon huʔ?(Zhou Zhizhi & Yan Qixiang, 1984)
　　　　　　　Shall go you not shall go
　　　　　　　Shall you go or not?

3.2 Universal features of positive-negative questions

It can be seen from the above types that many southern VO languages, such as the Zhuang-Dong language family and the Hmong-Mien language family in the Sino-Tibetan language family, and the Austroasiatic languages and Austronesian languages, are similar to Chinese in the form of positive-negative questions x-neg-x. The common forms of x-neg-x positive-negative questions are VP-neg-VP and VP-neg. These two positive-negative questions are basically covered in VO language in China:(1) If x is a predicate without object or complement. The structural form of the positive-negative questions of a single predicate verb is v-neg-v, which can usually be omitted as v-neg positive and negative structural form; the positive and negative structure of the predicate verb phrase is VP-neg-VP, which usually omits the auxiliary verb in the previous verb phrase and reduces it to become the form of vp-neg-v, or omits the latter predicate verb phrase and becomes VP-neg (2) If x is the predicate of driving object structure or verb complement structure. The structural form of the positive-negative questions of a single predicate is VO-neg-VO, which is also affected by the principle of language economy. Omitting the former object can be reduced to v-neg VO, or omitting the latter group of verb object structures directly to become VO-neg; the positive and negative structural form of the predicate phrase is VPO-neg VPO. Usually, the structural form is also reduced to VP-neg-VPO, v-neg-vpo or VPO NEG. Although these structural forms

coexist in VO type languages, these x-neg-x types have the difference between dominant word order and non-dominant word order in VO type languages, and their frequency of use from high to low is as follows:

(1) V-Neg > V-Neg-V

(2) VP-Neg > VP-Neg-V > VP-Neg-VP

(3) VO-Neg > V-Neg-VO > VO-Neg-VO

(4) VPO-Neg > V-Neg-VPO > VP-Neg-VPO > VPO-Neg-VPO

(5) V-Neg-VO > VO-Neg-V

(6)V-Neg-VPO > VPO-Neg-V

Thus, it can be concluded that the x-neg-x positive and negative question structure contains two implicational universals in VO languages:

(1)In the type of VO languages, if a language own these positive and negative question patterns, such as V-Neg-V, VP-Neg-VP, VO-Neg-VO, VPO-Neg-VPO, thus this language must has the patterns of V-Neg, VP-Neg, VO-Neg, VPO-Neg;

(2)In the type of VO languages, V-neg-VO positive-negative questions are superior to VO-neg-V positive-negative questions; V-neg-VPO positive-negative questions are superior to VPO-neg-V positive-negative questions.

4. Types and universal features of positive-negative questions in OV language

Minority languages with word order type of OV are mostly inflectional languages. The grammatical categories of verbs are relatively rich, including person, number, aspect, automation, causation, interaction, destiny, question, prayer, negation, direction and other grammatical categories. Most of these grammatical categories or forms are expressed by additional components, phonetic alternation, overlapping, adhesive prefix and suffix, etc.

4.1 The types of positive-negative questions

4.1.1 Tibetan-Burmese Languages

The positive and negative interrogative sentences in Tibetan-Burmese languages are analyzed in most languages and inflected in a few languages. I. languages using analytical means. For example, Tsaiva language, Aka language, Cona Menba language, Cangluo Menba language, Langsu language, Xiandao language, Achang language, Bora language, Nusu language, etc. II. Languages using inflectional means. For example, Dulong language and Ronghong qiang language which adds suffixes to express questions after the optional items. Leqi language adopts the alternation of long and short vowels of verbs, and Kazhuo language adopts the overlapping form of verbs. For example:

1) Xian Dao language:nɔŋ55 thi55 te55 lɔ51 su55 la51, n55 lɔ51 su55 la51? (Dai, 2005）
       You   that place go aux aux, not go aux aux
       Will go to that place or not?

2) Le Qi language:naŋ55 fu̠ʔ55khjap55 ʃu:k55 a33 ʃuk55 la53?（Dai & Li, 2007）
       You   drink   tea   not   drink   aux
      Do you drink tea or not?

In the Tibetan-Burmese languages, it is usually seen that the affirmation and negation of verbs and adjectives overlap to form interrogative sentences, which is similar to the structural form of x-neg-x interrogative sentences in Chinese. There is a structural form in which the affirmative and negative of a single predicate verb overlap, for example:

Na Xi language:bɯ33 mə33 bɯ33?(Yang Dianhuan, 2004)
      Go   not   go
      GO or not go?

Achang language:nuaŋ lɔ ma lɔ?(Dai & Cui, 1985)
      He   have not have
      Did he have or not?

If the verb in the positive-negative questions is not a simple single verb, but a verb phrase, with sometimes, aspect, modal verbs or complements, the affirmation and negation must be a complete form,

that is, VP-neg-VP, and no part of it can be omitted. For example:

Ha Ni language:buvq   nia   maq   buvq nia?(Li Zeran, 2001)
                    Write   can   not   write can
                    Can (you) write or not?
Ineffective impression:*buvq   nia   maq   buvq?
                        Write   can   not   write
                        *nia   maq   buvq nia?
                        Can   not   write can
Rou Ruo language:tu 35 tɛ55ie55 ʔu31 tɛ55ie55?（Sun，2002）
                        He   go back   not   go   back
                        Does he go back or not?

When the verb phrase is composed of modal verbs and verbs, modal verbs can omit one and only use it after the latter verb to form V-neg-VP. For example:

Bi su language:jaŋ33 nat33 pɤ33 mba31 pɤ33 tsɔ33?(Xu Shixuan, 1998)

                    He   gun   shoot not   gun   shoot
                    Dare he shoot or not?

Since most languages in the Tibetan-Burmese Languages belong to OV language, the structural form of the corresponding positive and negative question is OVP-neg-OVP. However, the latter object O is usually omitted to form the ellipsis structure of OVP-neg-VP or OVP-neg-V.

Li Su language:e55ua31 lɑ31khɯ31 xo35 ku55 xo35 mɑ31 ku55?(Xu Lin, 1986)

                    They   plowshare   cast can   cast   not can
                    Can they cast plowshares or not?
Men Ba language: a12 ka12 a55pa55 la55sa55 ka12 te12wa ma12-te12wa? (Zhang, 1986)
                    You (G)   father   Lhasa   (Aux)   go   not   go
                    Did your father go to Lhasa or not?

However, in some languages of the Sino-Tibetan language family, especially the Yi language, it is rare to use the positive and negative overlapping form of predicates to construct positive-negative questions. questions formed in the pattern of direct overlapping verbs VV are more common. For example:

Yi language:ŋ33 ɕe44 sz44 so44 so44? (Ding Chunshu, 1991)
            You Chinese learn learn
            Do you learn Chinese or not?
            I44 tsho33 lɑ44 tʂɑ11 tʂɑ11?
            This people CL good good
            Is this people good or not?
Khazhuo language:nɛ33 tsa31 tsa31?（Ma Xueliang，1991）
                        You   eat   eat
                    Do you eat or not?

4.1.2 Altaic languages

There are few examples of x-neg-x positive-negative questions in Mongolian and Turkic languages in Altaic language family. However, in some languages of the Manchu-Tungusic language family, such as Manchu and Korean languages, there are still x-neg-x positive-negative questions. For example:

Manchu language: ɕi tuɑ miniŋŋə inovɑqɑ?
                    You think mine is not is
                    Do you think it's mine or not?
                        dʑidzərqo ome odʐɔrqo?
                    Don't come, will you?

On the whole, Altaic language family generally lacks x-neg-x positive-negative questions, because Altaic language family belongs to OVlanguage like Tibetan Myanmar language, and many language verbs have rich morphological changes, which can express positive-negative questions through verb suffix changes, resulting in the lack of x-neg-x positive-negative questions. For example, the positive-negative questions in Kirgiz language, Western Yugu language and other languages are replaced by yes-no questions, where questions are generally expressed with the help of interrogative pronouns or auxiliary words (and their phonetic variants). For example:

Kirgiz language:bul sizdin kitebiŋizbi?(Hu Zhenhua, 1986)
　　　　　　　　This your　book
　　　　　　　　Is this your book or not?
Yugu language:men saɣa baŋnaser kerek drəm?（Zhong Jinwen，2009）
　　　　　　　　I　give you help need happen
　　　　　　　　Do you need my help or not?

4.1.3 Indo-European languages

Like Altaic languages, Indo-European languages belong to OV language as Tibetan-Burmese languages, but the positive-negative questions in their language are not found easily. For example, Tajik language does not have the structural form of x-neg-x to express positive-negative questions, but uses the form of selective questions instead of positive-negative questions, such as:

Tajik language:maj　pa　wand　o　pa na　wand
　　　　　　　　　We　now　see　a　now　not　see
　　　　　　　　Can we see or not?

4.2 Universal features of positive-negative questions

Through the above collection of OV minority language data in the north, we find that the structural forms of x-neg-x positive-negative questions are widely in the minority languages distributed in the Tibetan-Burmese languages of the Sino-Tibetan language family in the north of China, while in Altaic language family, the structural forms of positive-negative questions overlapping affirmation and negation are not very common, which can be seen only in Korean and other languages. In Indo-European languages, the query is fruitless. Therefore, the typological characteristics of positive-negative questions in OV language are mainly based on the positive-negative questions of Tibetan-Burmese language family.

It can be seen from the above types that interrogative structures similar to Chinese x-neg-x positive-negative questions can be seen in many languages of Tibetan-Burmese language family, but the word order structure is opposite. It can be seen from the above types that the common forms of x-neg-x positive-negative questions in many OV languages are VP-neg-VP and VV. These two positive-negative questions are basically covered in OV languages in China. (1) IF x is a predicate without object or complement. The structural form of the positive-negative questions of a single predicate verb is v-neg-v, which can usually be omitted as V-V positive and negative structural form; the positive and negative structural form of the predicate verb phrase is VP-neg-VP. Usually, the auxiliary verb in the previous verb phrase is omitted and reduced as V-neg-VP, or the negative word is omitted and changed as VP-VP form. (2) If x is the predicate of verb-object structure or verb-complement structure. The structural form of the positive-negative questions of a single predicate is OV-neg-OV, which is also affected by the principle of language economy. Omitting the latter object can be reduced as OV-neg-V, or omitting the negative word directly to OV-V; The positive and negative structural form of the predicate phrase is OVP-neg-OVP. Usually, the structural form is also reduced as OVP-neg-VP, OVP-neg-V or OVP-VP. Although these structural forms coexist in OV type languages, these x-neg-x types have the differences between dominant word order and non-dominant word order in OV type languages, and their frequency of use from high to low is as follows:

(1)V-V > V-Neg-V

(2)VP-VP > V-Neg-VP > VP-Neg-VP

(3)OV-V > OV-Neg-V >OV-Neg-OV

(4)OVP-VP > OVP-Neg-V > OVP-Neg-VP > OVP-Neg-OVP

(5)OV-Neg-V > V-Neg-OV

(6)OVP-Neg-V > V-Neg-OVP

Thus, it can be concluded that the x-neg-x positive and negative question structure contains two implicational universals in OV language:

(1)In a OV language, if a language has V-neg-V, VP-neg-VP, OV-neg-OV and OVP-neg-OVP positive-negative questions, the language must have V-V, VP-VP, OV-V and OVP-VP positive-negative questions;

(2)In OV language, OV-neg-V positive-negative questions are the dominant word order compared

with V-neg-OV positive-negative questions; Compared with V-neg-OVP positive-negative questions, OVP-neg-V positive-negative questions are the dominant word order.

5. Comparison and analysis of the typological features of positive-negative questions in VO and OV languages

5.1 The comparison of typological features

There are x-neg-x structural forms of positive-negative questions in VO type languages in the South and OV type languages in the north of China. However, from the perspective of word order typology, they have both similarities and differences in types.

When x is a predicate without object or complement, the structural forms of positive-negative questions of single predicate verbs of VO language and OV language can be expressed as the universal word order type of V-neg-V, and the structural forms of positive-negative questions of predicate verb phrases can also be expressed as the common word order type of VP-neg-VP. However, the structural types of the dominant word order of the positive and rhetorical questions in VO and OV languages are different. The dominant word order of the positive and rhetorical questions in VO languages is V-neg or VP-neg, while the dominant word order of the positive-negative questions in OV languages is V-V or VP-VP.

When x is a predicate with object or complement, VO and OV languages have different word orders between object and predicate. When the predicate is composed of a single verb and object, the common word order types of positive-negative questions in VO languages is VO-neg-VO, and the dominant word order type is VO- neg; the common word order type of positive-negative questions in OV type language is OV-neg-OV, and the dominant word order is OV-V. When the predicate is composed of verb phrases and objects, the common word order type of positive-negative questions in VO language is VPO-neg-VPO, and the dominant word order type is VPO-neg; the collinear word order type of positive-negative questions in OV language is OVP-neg-OVP, and the dominant word order type is OVP-VP.

5.2 The analysis of typological features

The types of rhetorical questions in VO languages of many ethnic minorities in the south of China are similar to the types of Chinese x-neg-x rhetorical questions and have the same word order, while the OV languages of ethnic minorities in the north of China also have the structural forms similar to Chinese x-neg-x positive-negative questions, but they are opposite to the word order structural types of Chinese positive-negative questions. In the x-neg-x predicate structure without object and complement, VO and OV languages have the same type of V-neg-V or VP-neg-VP structure, but affected by long-term language contact, which have gradually formed the dominant word order, that is, the dominant word order of the positive-negative questions in VO language is V / VP / VO / VPO-neg, and the dominant word order of the positive-negative questions in VO language is V / VP / OV / OVP-V / VP / V / VP.

Southern minority languages belong to the right extended type of VO language. Therefore, in the positive-negative questions, v-neg-v, the overlapping form of positive and negative verb is the central structure of the positive-negative questions. When the verb has complement, object or other modifiers, putting these modifiers behind the whole structure is in line with the word order type rules of Southern VO language. Therefore, structures such as V-neg-VO and V-neg-VPO have the strongest acceptance in VO Southern languages. Although VO-neg-V and VPO-neg-V coexist with V-neg-VO and V-neg-VPO in VO language, in a structure, verbs point to the before and behind object. Structures such as VO-neg-V and VPO-neg-V do not conform to the law of semantic direction. Therefore, they must not become the dominant choice of language evolution.

6. Conclusion

In the minority languages in China, both VO type and OV type languages contain the structural forms of V-neg-V and VP-neg-VP. Therefore, the positive-negative questions in the minority languages in the South and North China have the linguistic universal features of symmetrical overlap of affirmative and negative verbs. The dominant word order of the ellipsis form of positive-negative questions in southern VO language is predicate-negative word (V / VP / VPO-neg), and the dominant word order of positive-negative questions which composed of overlapping positive and negative forms is V-neg-VO or V-neg-

VPO structure. The dominant word order of the simplified form of positive-negative questions in northern OV language is predicate reduplication (V-V / VP-VP / OV-V/ OVP-VP), and the dominant word order of positive-negative questions composed of reduplicating positive and negative forms is OV-neg-V or OVP-neg-V structure.

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