

汉语话语中推理照应的语用研究  
BRIDGING REFERENCE IN CHINESE DISCOURSE  
— A PRAGMATIC APPROACH

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## PREFACE

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# PREFACE

As early as 1977, Professor Herbert H. Clark's paper "Bridging" appeared in *Thinking-Readings in Cognitive Science*, edited by P. N. Johnson-Laird and P. C. Wason. Since then, "bridging reference", which refers to the relationship between a bridging expression and its intended referent not explicitly expressed in context, but can be inferred via the addition of contextual assumptions, has been broadly studied as assumptions in verbal communication. Pragmatically, such linguistic assumptions have been dealt with in various ways, based on notions of truth, coherence and relevance. Gricean framework of Cooperative Principle with maxims observation and violation (Grice, 1989), Sanford and Garrod's scenario account of comprehension (1981), Grosz and Sidner's computational account of reference resolution (1986), Sperber and Wilson's relevance theory (1995), etc. are different means to handle the cases of bridging interpretation. As Matsui (1998) puts it, the relevance-based approach to bridging is preferable on both descriptive and explanatory grounds. Following what Matsui held, Dr. Mo Aiping has studied bridging reference in the Chinese context, making analysis from the viewpoint of relevance theory. And his doctoral dissertation is just about what he has gained in his studies of Chinese discourse.

Dr. Mo's main arguments in this dissertation were presented as three hypotheses related to bridging reference : the validity at the syntactic level , the acceptability at the semantic level , and the appropriateness at the pragmatic level. He tested these three hypotheses in two questionnaire studies , and the results showed that the data tested could well be explained by relevance theory , and the three levels are interrelated and complementary—no single level or hypothesis can stand alone for the appropriate interpretation of bridging in communication. Dr. Mo's findings are of significance in utterance understanding , and have practical implications in discourse studies.

Mr. Mo came to do his Ph.D. in Guangdong Foreign Studies University (GDUFS) in 2000. He was interested in linguistics , especially in pragmatics. He worked hard , having published quite a few papers on pragmatics during his studies. He also teamed up with me for a national research project on cognitive pragmatics granted by the State Education Ministry. Mr. Mo finally got his Degree in 2003 and has since been working as a faculty member in GDUFS. Recently , Dr. Mo has been promoted as Professor in linguistics , engaged in supervising graduate students who major in pragmatics. He also gives lectures and courses on various subjects of linguistics. Dr. Mo was one of my best students in the past , and he , I believe , will be one of the best academics among the university faculty.

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