ABSTRACT

Cross-modal semantic priming and lexical judgment methods are adopted in this research to examine the cognitive process of the referent of Chinese reflexive ziji and the relationship between the two properties of “local binding” and “long-distance binding”. It was found that there exist several temporal stages of the processing of ziji. At the early stage of sentence processing (SOA=0ms), ziji is bound to the embedded subject within the Governing Category, which is consistent with Binding Principle A. However, at the second stage (SOA=160ms), ziji is bound to the matrix subject, namely long-distance binding. As to the third stage (SOA=370ms), the difference of the binding relationships between ziji and the two alternative subjects is not prominent any more. Both kinds of subjects give rise to semantic priming to target words. It means that the syntactic analysis of sentence processing has been finished and the semantic integration stage begins.

The full paper could be found in Journal of Chinese Linguistics 2009, 37, 1