Chapter One

Introduction

The study of the Chinese reflexive pronoun *ziji* has been a major theme in contemporary linguistics since Huang (1982). For nearly two decades, researchers have focused on accounting for the properties about *ziji* because its behavior is not entirely predicted by Chomsky's (1981, 1986) Binding Principle A, which requires reflexives to have a c-commanding antecedent in the local domain, or the governing category. For example, one of the best-known phenomena associated with *ziji* is its capacity to be bound to an NP outside its local domain, usually corresponding to the minimal clausal boundary. As illustrated below, *ziji* stands in stark contrast to English reflexives, which can find their antecedents only in the local domain:[1]

(1) John$_i$ knows that Bill$_j$ likes himself$_{*i/j}$.
(2) Zhangsan$_i$ renwei Lisi$_j$ hai-le ziji$_{i/j}$. (Huang and Tang (1991))
   Zhangsan think Lisi hurt-Perf self
   Zhangsan thought that Lisi hurt self.

Clearly, (2) contradicts the standard Chomskyan binding theory, as *ziji* can have as its antecedent *Zhangsan*, an NP outside the governing category, i.e. the minimal clause. In (1), only *Bill*, the NP c-commanding *himself* in the local domain, can be the antecedent. (2) is known as an instance of long-distance anaphora. There is no limit to the number of clauses between *ziji* and its antecedent.

Another property of long-distance *ziji* widely discussed in the literature is that its antecedents are limited to subjects. In (3), *Lisi* cannot antecede *ziji*. This phenomenon is known as subject orientation.

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[1] This observation does not hold true for certain literary varieties of English examined by Baker (1995).

(3) Zhangsan$_i$ gaosu Lisi$_j$ Wangwu$_k$ kanbuqi ziji$_{i/*j/k}$. (Battistella (1989))
Zhangsan tell Lisi Wangwu look-down-on self
Zhangsan told Lisi that Wangwu looked down on self.

Still another property of *ziji* is that its antecedent need not c-command it when the subject NP is inanimate (Tang (1989)):

(4) a. Zhangsan$_i$-de jiaoao$_j$ hai-le ziji$_{i/*j}$. (Tang (1989))
Zhangsan's pride hurt-Perf self
Zhangsan's pride hurt self.
b. Zhangsan$_i$-de baba$_j$ dui ziji$_{*i/j}$ mei xinxin. (Cole et al. (1993))
Zhangsan's father to self no confidence
Zhangsan's father has no confidence in himself.

In (4a), *Zhangsan* can antecede *ziji* because the subject NP c-commanding *ziji* is an inanimate NP. In (4b), *Zhangsan* cannot because the subject NP is animate. Tang called *Zhangsan* in (4a) a sub-commanding antecedent.

    Finally, as documented in Huang (1984), long-distance binding of *ziji* is blocked when the potential antecedents do not agree in person and number features.

(5) Wo$_i$ zhidao women$_j$ dui ziji$_{*i/j}$ mei you xinxin. (Tang (1989))
I know we to self not have confidence
I know that we have no confidence in ourselves.
(6) Zhangsan$_i$ renwei wo$_j$ zhidao Wangwu$_k$ xihuan ziji$_{*i/*j/k}$. (Cole et al. (1993))
Zhangsan know I know Wangwu like self
Zhangsan thinks that I know that Wangwu likes himself.
(7) Wo$_j$ juede ta$_i$ dui ziji$_{*j/i}$ mei xinxin. (Battistella and Xu (1990))
I think he to self no confidence
I think he has no confidence in himself

The above properties are the most important ones associated with *ziji*, and the ones for which the thesis aims at accounting. Apart from these, long-distance *ziji* is also noted for being monomorphemic, i.e. consisting of only one morpheme, unlike

bimorphemic *ziji*, e.g. *taziji* "himself" *woziji*, "myself", and *niziji* "youself". Consider the following contrast:

(8) a. Zhangsan$_i$ renwei Lisi$_j$ hai-le ziji$_{i/j}$. (Huang and Tang (1991))
   Zhangsan think Lisi hurt-Perf self
   Zhangsan thought that Lisi hurt self.
   b. Zhangsan$_i$ renwei Lisi$_j$ hai-le ta-ziji$_{*i/j}$. (Huang and Tang (1991))
   Zhangsan think Lisi hurt-Perf himself
   Zhangsan thought that Lisi hurt himself.

In (8b), long-distance binding is impossible with *taziji*, a reflexive pronoun consisting of two morphemes. However, as Pan (1998) argues, the generalization that bimorphemic reflexives cannot have long-distance antecedents does not seem valid, in view of the following example:

(9) Zhangsan$_i$ kaishi renwei natiao gou dui ta-ziji$_i$ buhui you shenme bangzhu, keshi
   Zhangsan at-first think that-CL dog to himself not-will have what help, but later
   houlai yi xiang, suiran natiao gou dui ta-ZIJI meiyou bangzhu, danshi dui gebi
   one think although that-CL dog to himself not-have help, but to next-door
   LAOTAITAI yiding you yongchu, suoyi jiu mai-le natiao gou.
   old-woman certainly have use, so then buy-Perf that-CL dog
   At first Zhangsan thought that the dog would not give him any help, but then he
   realized that although the dog would not help HIM, it would certainly be of some
   use to the OLD LADY next door.[2] Therefore, he bought the dog.

The first instance of *ta-ziji* is bound outside its governing category to *Zhangsan*. It bears no contrastive stress and is pronounced neutrally. Therefore it cannot be treated as an emphatic pronoun like *ta-ZIJI*. Monomorphemicity as a unique property of long-distance *ziji* is thus called into question.

   To sum up, *ziji* displays long-distance binding, subject orientation, binding to

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[2] Note that the words in capitals are intended for contrastive purposes. *Ta-ZIJI* contrasts with *LAOTAITAI*.

sub-commanding NPs, and the blocking effect. Any adequate theory of Chinese reflexivization must tackle these phenomena, whatever framework it is couched in.

This thesis represents an attempt to demonstrate that a framework à la Hu and Pan (2002) accounts for these phenomena in a way that avoids the theoretical and empirical problems plaguing previous studies. The thesis is organized as follows. Chapter Two examines previous research on Chinese non-local reflexivization; various types of analyses, including GB-style approaches, e.g. Huang and Tang (1991), Huang and Liu (2001), Cole and Sung (1994), and Cole et al. (2001), and alternative approaches, e.g. Pollard and Xue (1998, 2001), Pan (2001), and Hu and Pan (2002), are examined for their merits and demerits. Chapter Three presents a competition-based proposal for Chinese non-local reflexivization incorporating the insights of Hu and Pan (2002) and discusses sentence types which are not covered by Hu and Pan. A few divergences are shown to be necessary in the presence of certain data. Chapter Four is devoted to the blocking effect. It reviews previous accounts for blocking in detail and argues that a competition-based approach is superior to any extant accounts. Chapter Five summarizes the results.