

## On the Syntax, Semantics and Prosody Interface of Anti Pied-piping in Chinese Focus Structures

Research on pied-piping (Ross 1967; Cable 2012, 2013) in Mandarin Chinese is already rare, and studies on anti-pied-piping (Branan & Erlewine 2023)—a phenomenon that has aroused great attention in recent years—are even harder to find a literature related to Chinese phenomenon. Therefore, this paper attempts to conduct a preliminary exploration of such a topic. Based on the interface among syntax, semantics, and prosody, and drawing on examples mainly cited from Mandarin Chinese, this study **compares the relationship between pied-piping and anti-pied-piping, and analyzes the latter in the context of focused elements in Mandarin focus structures from a novel perspective.** The findings reveal that pied-piping and anti-pied-piping are mutually compensatory strategies at the surface structure level, while both serve feature checking at the deep structure level. Specifically, in Mandarin focus structures, **anti-pied-piping manifests as a phenomenon where a sub-part within the logical focus domain is marked with a focus particle or a focus operator and undergoes movement either within or outside the logical focus domain, carrying morphosyntactic focus features, as is shown in (1).** Anti pied-piping also exists in **idiom chunks in Chinese**, with their idiomatic interpretation kept but fronting the subpart of the idiom chunks, as is shown in (2). The systematic explanation provided in this paper for these traditionally intractable phrasal or sentential structures demonstrates the explanatory of the anti-pied-piping effects and deepens our understanding of certain movement phenomena in Mandarin focus structures.

**Key Words:** Anti pied-piping; Pied-piping; Focus Structures; Morphosyntactic focus; Movement Operation

### (1) Anti pied-piping in VP focus with covert focus operators and particles

- A. OP<sub>[VP]</sub>[ *bei buxialai* <sub>PRT+DP[danci]<sub>MSF</sub>]<sub>F</sub>, *hai xueshenme yingyu.*  
Recite not-ASP words, even study what English.  
“If you cannot recite the words, how dare you learn English.”</sub>
- B. [<sub>PRT+DP[danci]<sub>MSF</sub>]<sub>OP</sub>[<sub>VP</sub>[*bei buxialai t*]<sub>F</sub>], *hai xueshenme yingyu.*  
Words not-asp recited even study what English.  
“Even words cannot recited, how dare you learn English?”</sub>
- C. LF: [*danci*] [ $\lambda x$ ]<sub>[VP PRO [<sub>VP</sub> *bei buxialai x*]]], *hai xueshenme yingyu.*  
Words not-asp recited even study what English.</sub>

### (2) Anti pied-piping in idiom chunks in Mandarin Chinese

- A. [<sub>CP</sub> [<sub>DP</sub> *shui de da bing*]<sub>i</sub>, [<sub>TP</sub> *Lisi ai* [<sub>VP</sub> *hua t*]]]<sub>i</sub>?  
(SHI)  
SHI who DE big pie, Lisi loves to draw?  
I. Literal reading: “Whose big pie does Lisi loves to draw?”  
II. Idiomatic reading: “Who<sub>i</sub> is that Lisi loves to make grandiose but impractical promises to him<sub>i</sub> /her<sub>i</sub>?”

### Major References

- [1]. Branan, K., & Erlewine, M. Y. (2023). Anti-pied-piping. *Language*, 99(3), 603 – 653.  
[2]. Dash, B., & Datta, M. (2022). Focus anti-pied-piping in Bangla and Hindi-Urdu. In I. Guha, S. Kidwai, & M. Schwarz (Eds.), *Proceedings of (F)ASAL-10*.