



# A Minimalist Derivation of Head-Final Order in the Peripheral Domain

Linguistics Seminars



Presented by

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Venue: Room 220,2/F, Fung King Hey Building,  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

## Abstract:

The left-periphery in Chinese is composed of both head-initial and “apparent” head-final projections at the surface. In the framework of the Minimalist Program, this talk proposes a unified head-initial analysis of peripheral functional projections. I assume that each of these projections constitutes an independent phase and that their heads (overt or covert) bear an EPP feature which must be satisfied. The periphery domain in Chinese covers four strategies to satisfy EPP: if a Lexical Item with an overt phonetic form available in the Lexical Array can satisfy the EPP of a given phase head (PH), Merge it directly in the specifier position of the PH; otherwise, Merge a null semantic operator which lacks phonological features in the Spec of PH; otherwise, Move an XP functioning as a Goal to the Spec of PH after an Agree relation is established; otherwise, Move the entire complement of the PH to its specifier position as a last resort to satisfy EPP. Under this analysis, Sentence-Final Particles (SFP) are treated as initial heads and their apparent final-order is derived by moving the clausal complement to their specifier position as a last resort strategy to satisfy the EPP. My analysis crucially differs from the previous ones in the technical motivation for such a Comp-to-Spec raising. The derivation of several complex structures will be discussed in detail, such as, the co-occurrence of several SFPs, the co-occurrence of both initial and “apparent” final heads, the extraction through the “escape hatch” (i.e. the Spec of HP), parallel derivations in different Workspaces, etc. The proposed analysis results in the same order that the LCA derives at PF and it also solves a problem of an apparent violation of the FOFC in Chinese.

## Speaker:

Professor Victor Junnan Pan is a Junior Member of the Institut Universitaire de France (法蘭西大學學院青年院士), an Associate Professor with tenure in theoretical linguistics at the University Paris 7, habilitated for PhD students supervision, and a research staff member affiliated in Laboratoire de Linguistique Formelle. He also served as an executive committee member of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL) and of the European Association of Chinese Linguistics (EACL). Specializing in Generative Syntax, Prof. Pan's research covers Chinese syntax, French syntax, syntax-semantic-discourse interfaces, etc. and the topics he investigated include interrogatives (wh-in-situ, wh-ex-situ), quantification in formal linguistics, information structure (topicalization, focalization), left-periphery, cartography, resumptivity and different types of A'-dependency. Prof. Pan has published journal articles, book chapters and five research monographs both in French and in English. His recent book *Resumptivity in Mandarin Chinese: A Minimalist Account* (Mouton De Gruyter, 2016) not only gives a thorough description of the distribution of resumptive dependencies in different contexts from a comparative perspective but also offers a theoretical account in the framework of the Minimalist Program, which improves the general understanding of resumptivity crosslinguistically. His forthcoming book *The Architecture of Periphery in Chinese: Cartography and Minimalism* (Routledge, 2018) provides a new perspective on the study of peripheral functional projections in Chinese.

Enquiries: