The semantic meaning and function of the Chinese adverb '[就] jiu' ---a research in disjunctive conjunction sentences---

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Abstract

Chinese adverb '[就] jiu' has different meanings in respect of the relative position between jiu and the focus. In my research, I focus on sentence when focus appears in front of jiu (namely jiuI). I will provide hitherto unnoticed data to show that when jiu appears in a disjunctive conjunction sentence, the sentence will have an inclusive construal of or. I introduce scalar implicature theory from Chierchia, Fox, Spector (2013), assuming that jiuI always appears with an exhaustification operator and a necessity operator obligatorily. I assume sentences like 'ta xingqisan huo xingqisi jiuI lai xuexiao (On Wednesday or Thursday (jiuI) he come to school)' has the logic form $O_{ALT}(\Box(O_{ALT}(Wednesday \text{ or Thursday})))$.

1. Introduction

Jiu has different meanings in respect of the relative position between jiu and the focus

- (1) **Yuhan** jiu hui shuo fayu. jiu1: focus ... jiu1

 John *jiu1* can speak French

 'John, who is easy to get hold of, can speak French.'
- (2) Jiu **Yuhan** hui shuo fayu. jiu2: jiu2 ... focus *Jiu2* John can speak French

 'Only John can speak French.'
- (1) a scalar meaning, or an anti-exhaustive meaning
- (2) an exclusive meaning similar to English only

But in Chinese there is *only* [只]'zhi' which is equal to English *only*.

(3) ta zhi zai qingqitian qu gongyuan fujinde kafeidian.
he only at Sunday go park near-DE cafe
'He only at Sunday go to the cafe neat the park'

Aim: the meaning and function of jiu1

2. Previous Research

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2.1. Biq (1988):

parametric jiu (jiu1)

(4) Zhangsan mingtian jiu zou

Zhangsan tomorrow jiul leave

'Zhangsan will leave (as soon as) tomorrow.'

⇒The focus being the PARAMETER for obtaining the actuation of the event denoted in the sentence.

jiu1: make a predicate 'Zhangsan leaves at x'. The focus 'tomorrow' is the parameter.

2.2. Tsai (2017)

jiul is a marker of ONLY HAVE-TO

 \Rightarrow jiu's presence indicates the sentence contains the ONLY HAVE-TO operator attaching to the focus phrase.

(5) a. [Liangge_Flaoshi] jiu ba naxie xiaohai kongzhi-zhule.

two teacher jiul ba those children control-holdasp

'Two teachers (sufficed to have) held controlled over those kids.'

b. [ONLY HAVE-TO [two_F teachers]] [held controlled over those kids]

c. NECx [x held control over those kids] [ONLY HAVE-TO [x = two_F teachers]]

restriction nuclear scope

(5a) has the LF in (5b), and basic conditional semantics in (5c)

A conditional meaning:

(6) If the individual(s) x held control over those kids, x only had to be two teachers.

2.3. Liu (2017): *jiu* as weak *only*

ONLY weak

(7)

 $[ONLY_{weak}(\pi)]$ is true iff $\forall q \in C[q \subset \pi \to \neg q]$

Alternatives asymmetrically entailing the prejacent are false.

3. Characteristics of jiu1

3.1. Hole (2004) [只要|Zhiyao 'only need' conditionals

- (8) [If..., then...] conditionals \rightarrow jiu is optional
- (9) ruguo ni kan-jian le shei, (jiu) jiao ta lai jian wo if you see ASP who then tell him/her come see me 'If you see someone, then tell him/her to come see me'

(Cheng and Huang 1996)

(10) zhiyao ni yonggong, ni *(jiu) hui chenggong.
only-need you hard-working you JIU will succeed
'If you WORK HARD, you will make it.'/'You only have to WORK HARD to make it'
(Hole 2004)

I assume that, when *jiu1* appears the sentence always have the meaning *zhiyao* 'only need'.

- (11) ta (zhiyao) **xingqisan huo xingqisi** jiu lai xuexiao. he only-need Wednesday or Thursday jiu1 come school. 'On Wednesday or Thursday he come to school.
- ⇒ Invisible zhiyao 'only-need' in front of Wednesday or Thursday

3.2. Jiu1 always appear in context

Answering a Wh-question

- (12) Q: On what day of the week do you come to school?
 - A: wo 'xingqi-san jiu lai xuexiao?
 - I Wednesday jiul come school
 - 'I come to school at Wednesday (which day is easy to get hold of).'

Presupposition: I come to school at x.

3.3. jiu1 is related to the speaker attitude

yexu 'perhaps' \rightarrow the attitude of the speaker

- (13) a. * 'ta jiu yexu zai yiyuan

 he jiu1 perhaps at hospital

 Intented: 'He (who is easy to get hold of) perhaps at hospital.'
 - b. `ta yexu jiu zai yiyuanhe perhaps jiu1 at hospital'He (who is easy to get hold of) perhaps at hospital.'

Summary of section 2 and 3

- (14) Jiu1 is a marker of only-need
- (15) a. wo `xingqi-san jiu lai xuexiao?

 I Wednesday jiu1 come school
 'On Wednesday I come to school.'
 - b. (I come to school on x), (x need to be Wednesday)

4. Analysis

4.1. Chierchia, Fox, Spector (2013)

- (16) Joe or Bill will show up.
 - \Rightarrow Joe or Bill and not both will show up.
- (17) B_s (O_{ALT}(show up(j) V show up (b)))
 - = $B_s(((show up (j) \lor show up (b)) \land \neg((show up (j) \land show up (b)))$
- $(18) \parallel O_{ALT}(S) \parallel^w = 1 \text{ iff } \parallel S \parallel^w = 1 \text{ and } \forall \phi \in ALT (\phi(w) = 1 \rightarrow \parallel S \parallel \subseteq \phi)$
- (19) ALT(x or Y) = $\{ x \text{ or } y, x, y, x \text{ and } y \}$
- \Rightarrow O_{ALT}(S) expresses the conjunction of S and of the negations of all the members of ALT that are not entailed by S. Equivalently, it states that the only members of ALT that are true are those entailed by S.
- (20) A: We are required to either read Ulysses or Madame Bovary.
 - B: ## No! We are not allowed to read both.
- (21) A: We are required to either read Ulysses or Madame Bovary or Both.
 - B: No! We are not allowed to read both.

For (20)

- (22) ALT ((20)) = { \Box (U or MB), \Box U, \Box MB, \Box (U and MB)}
- (23) $O_{ALT}((20)) = O_{ALT} \square (U \text{ or } MB) = \square (U \text{ or } MB) \land \neg \square U \land \neg \square MB$
- (24) a. We are required to either read U or MB and we are not required to read U and we are not required to read MB.
 - b. We are required to either read U or MB, we are allowed not to read U and we are allowed not to read MB.
 - c. We are required to either read U or MB, and we are allowed to read either one without reading the other.

For (21)

- (25) We are required to either read Ulysses or Madame Bovary or both.
 - \Rightarrow O_{ALT}(\square [O_{ALT}(U or MB) or (U and MB)])

The embedded **exhaustivity operator** is forced by HC and the matrix one exhaustifies the entire sentence.

- (26) Hurford's constraint (HC): A sentence that contains a disjunctive phrase of the form *S or S'* is infelicitous if *S* entails *S'* or *S'* entails *S*.
- (27) # Mary saw an animal or a dog.
- (25) is predicted to implicate the following:

- (28) a. $\neg \Box$ (O_{ALT}(U or MB)) b. $\neg \Box$ (U and MB)
- (29) a. \Box (U and MB) $\land \neg \Box$ (O_{ALT}(U or MB)) $\land \neg \Box$ (U and MB)
 - b. We are required to read U or MB, we are not required to read only one of the two novels, we are not required to read both.
 - c. We are required to read U or MB, and we are allowed to read both of them and we are allowed to read only one of them.

4.2. Chinese adverb jiu1

- (30) ta xingqisan huo xingqisi lai xuexiao.
 he Wednesday or Thursday come school.
 'He come to school either on Wednesday or on Thursday.'
- (31) O_{ALT}(W or T)

 = He come to school either on Wednesday or on Thursday and not both days.
- (32) ta (zhiyao) **xingqisan huo xingqisi** jiu lai xuexiao. he only-need Wednesday or Thursday jiu1 come school. 'On Wednesday or Thursday he come to school.
- (33) $O_{ALT}(\Box(O_{ALT}(W \text{ or } T) \text{ or } (W \text{ and } T)))$ need only implicate: $\neg\Box(O_{ALT}(W \text{ or } T)) \land \neg\Box(W \text{ and } T)$ jiu1
- (32) is the answer for (34)
- (34) On what day of the week does he come to school?
- (35) (He come to school at x), (x need to be W or T)
- (36) (zhiyao) **xingqisan huo xingqisi** jiu1 only-need Wednesday or Thursday jiu
- \Rightarrow O_{ALT}(W or T) or (W and T)

matrix O_{ALT} exhaustifies the entire sentence

- (37) a. \Box (U and MB) $\land \neg \Box$ (O_{ALT}(W or T)) $\land \neg \Box$ (W and T)
 - b. x need to be W or T, x does not need to be only one of the two days, x does not need to be both days.
 - c. x need to be W or T, x is allowed to be the two days, x is allowed to be only one of the two days.

5. Further research

- (38) a. More data of jiu1
 - b. What is the function of jiu2

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