

Monotonicity and Measure Phrases in Chinese

Julie Li Jiang
Harvard University

Schwarzschild (2006) has proposed a monotonicity constraint on Measure Phrases (MP), conjecturing that some version of it may be universal. By looking at Chinese facts we will see that Schwarzschild's proposed universal indeed is operative in classifier languages. I will offer an account of why this is so based on the claim that CIP (Classifier Phrase) must create 'atomic' structure (cf. Chierchia 1998). This has rich consequences for how number marking and measure phrases should be analyzed cross linguistically.