

## Differential Object Marking in Mandarin Chinese

Pei-Jung Kuo  
University of Connecticut

This paper argues for the existence of differential object markers (DOMs) in Mandarin Chinese and links the occurrence of DOMs to internal topicalization. I show that [+person] nominals are only possible as internal topics when preceded by a DOM. Following Rodriguez-Mondonedo 2007, I assume that the internal topic projection FP lacks [person] features, and therefore cannot license nominals which are phi-richer than F, unless accompanied by a DOM. Furthermore, I show that the first verb in a verb copying construction and BA in a BA construction are required when the topic is a [+person] nominal, and I conclude that these elements are DOMs.