

Matthias Gerner*

A recursive prefix in Neasu

<https://doi.org/10.1515/tlr-2022-2086>

Published online March 24, 2022

Abstract: Neasu (Tibeto-Burman: China) exhibits a prefix that derives new coordinators from existing ones by elaborately changing their subcategorical properties. Prefixed and unprefixed coordinators are distinguished by the complement they take (\pm verbal, \pm CoP) and the possibility of being stacked up at least twice (\pm stackable). A prefixed coordinator has two of these three features switched from “–” to “+”, when compared with its unprefixed counterpart and thus see its ability to occur as the head of recursive coordination structures increased. The prefix *ao-* is an operator of recursion.

Keywords: coordinator; derivational prefix; Neasu; recursive function; recursive rewrite rule

1 Introduction

European languages generally employ identical forms for nominal and verbal coordinators of the same type (e.g. *and*, *or*), whereas languages in Africa and Asia often use suppletive forms. For example, Korean involves two forms for “and” and two forms for “or.”

(1) *Korean* (Sohn 1999: 339 and 305)

a. Hyeng ilang | ina na ka ka-keyss-e.
 elder brother and/or 1.SG NOM go-will-INT
 “My older brother and/or I will go.”

b. Kiho ka w-ass -ko | -tunci Nami ka ka-ss-e.
 name NOM come-PST and/or name NOM go-PST-INT
 “Kiho came, and/or Nami went.”

*Corresponding author: Matthias Gerner, School of Humanities, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Shanghai, P. R. of China, E-mail: mgerner@hotmail.com. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6934-3381>