

The Underlying Metrical Operation in the Segmentation of Ambiguous Structures

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Abstract

By studying the subvocal interpretation of Chinese and Japanese ambiguous structures, the paper aims to demonstrate the different metrical characteristics between Chinese and Japanese languages when subvocal processing is conducted upon the established corpus, and also to clarify the inherent relationship between the phonetic feature and rhythmical or metrical structure of the two languages in their dealing with sentence structures. In both Chinese and Japanese, a corresponding relationship can be seen between the syntactic structure and many metrical elements such as the unconscious variation of FO, the switch of the pause location and the diversion of pause time. All these elements constitute a series of important phonetic characteristics in the segmentation of syntactic structure, which are closely related to the semantic understanding.