



FEATURE CHECKING OF WH-QUESTIONS IN THE SELECTED READINGS FROM THE WORKS OF MAO TSETUNG

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ABSTRACT

As neither LF-movement nor unselective binding seem to be perfect in the explanation of wh-questions, the author in this paper follows the Interrogative Feature Attraction Hypothesis and investigates on the possibility of adequate interpretation of the checking mechanism of the wh-features of the wh-questions and the shortened forms of wh-questions in the Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung. The analysis of feature attraction of the wh-features of the wh-questions and the shortened forms of wh-questions in the Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung proves that the Interrogative Feature Attraction Hypothesis really works.

Keywords: feature checking, feature attraction, wh-questions

Introduction

The Chinese version of the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung*, published by the People's Publishing House in 1991, covers the significant works by Mao Tsetung from Dec. 1, 1925 to Sept. 16, 1949 (Ma,2014:14). In 1971, the English version of the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung* was published by the Foreign Language Press, translated from the Chinese version of the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung* published in 1965 (Ma, 2014: 14). The Chinese data we use in this paper are taken from the Chinese version of the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung*, published by the

People's Publishing House in 1991, and the English counterparts are taken from the English version of the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung* published by the Foreign Language Press in 1971.

Ma (2014) describes the use and translation of interrogative sentences in the works of Mao Tsetung on the premise of the comparison of the Chinese version and the English version, and deals with the typological significance on the basis of the syntactic properties of the interrogative sentences in both languages. His analysis of the syntactic properties of interrogative sentences in the works of Mao Tsetung seems to prove that it is feasible to account for the syntactic phenomenon with QAH (Q-feature Attraction Hypothesis).

There are altogether 165 wh-questions in the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung*, 96 of which carry the question particle “ne” at the end of the sentences, up to 58.18% of all the wh-questions in the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung* (Ma, 2014: 20). In this paper, the author will deal with the wh-feature checking of the wh-questions in the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung*.

1. Research background

Aoun & Li (1993a, 1993b) speculates that in modern Chinese, the interrogative force of the wh-word as an indefinite is licensed in wh-questions by the interrogative operator. The question particle “ne” at the end of the sentence which is considered as a wh-operator binds the wh-word and forms an operator variable relationship. As is pointed out by Ma (2017a; 2017b), since there is no question particle in the wh-question in the bamboo slips of *Tao Te Ching*, there will be no wh-operator in the sentence, and therefore the sentence cannot be interpreted as a wh-question. Therefore, Aoun & Li's approach fails to account for the checking of the wh-questions in the bamboo slips of *Tao Te Ching*.

Another solution to the wh-questions in Chinese is the well known unselective binding approach. According to this hypothesis, a null wh-operator is base generated in the spec of CP, and the wh-feature agrees with the wh-feature of the head (Tsai, 1994; Shi, 1994; Wu, 2005 etc.), then the sentence as a wh-question in Chinese converges. It seems that even if there is no wh-word in the sentence, the sentence can be still interpreted as a wh-question. As

Ma (2017a, 2017b) points that it seems to be cycling proof that if the sentence is a wh-question, then in Chinese there must be a null wh-operator in spec of CP, and if a null wh-operator is base-generated in spec of CP, the sentence must be a wh-question, unselective binding is not on the right track. So unselective binding (Tsai, 1994; Shi, 1994; Wu, 2005 etc.) does not really work in the interpretation of archaic Chinese wh-questions (Ma, 2017a: 43; 2017b).

Ma (2017a; 2017b) also claims that the overt movement of the object wh-word in the Bamboo Slips of *Tao Te Ching* is strongly against the LF movement hypothesis of Huang (1982a, 1982b). LF movement of Chinese wh-words in wh-questions does not hold in archaic Chinese (Ma, 2017a: 42; 2017b). The wh-words in archaic Chinese are cases of overt movement, but not that of covert LF-movement. The overt movement in archaic Chinese is not necessarily triggered by wh-feature checking requirement. In fact, object shift in archaic Chinese is caused by focus feature checking requirement (Ma, 2017a; 2017b). Object shift is due to emphasis of the object, which is raised to the front position of the verb or the preposition. Thus the accusative wh-word becomes the focus of the sentence.

Either unselective binding or LF-movement fails to work in the interpretation of wh-questions in the bamboo slips of *Tao Te Ching* (Ma, 2017a; 2017b). As an alternative, Ma (2017a; 2017b; 2017c) comes to the Interrogative Feature Attraction Hypothesis (Ma, 2004; 2006: 108; 2014: 19; 2015; 2016a; 2016b; 2017a; 2017b; 2017c) for the explanation of wh-questions in Chinese.

(1) Interrogative Feature Attraction Hypothesis

In null specifier type of languages (Ma, 2001), the interrogative head with weak interrogative feature, located at the end of the interrogative sentence, which is attached to by the affix question particle “ne”/ “ma” or the rising tone Q in modern Chinese, and “ye” / “zai” / “hu” or the rising tone Q in archaic Chinese, attracts the interrogative feature of the wh-word or the interrogative construction to move to spec CP position so that the interrogative feature is checked and thus the sentences can be interpreted as interrogative sentences.

In the following section, we'll apply the Interrogative Feature Attraction Hypothesis to the interpretation of wh-questions in Chinese.

2. Feature checking of wh-questions

In the minimalist program (Chomsky, 1995), the movement of wh-operator is triggered by enlightened self-interest, that is to say, the motive of wh-operator movement is the altruism in order to check the feature of the other constituent. The head constituent complementizer C in the complementizer phrase CP possesses [+wh] specifier feature. In order to check the [+wh] specifier feature of the head constituent complementizer C in the complementizer phrase CP, the wh-operator must move to the spec CP position, and only in this way can the [+wh] specifier feature of the head constituent complementizer C in the complementizer phrase CP be checked. As the [+wh] specifier feature of the head constituent complementizer C in the complementizer phrase CP is not interpretable, once the [+wh] specifier feature of the head constituent complementizer C in the complementizer phrase CP is checked, it will be erased because uninterpretable feature can not penetrate into LF. This is the case of wh-feature checking in English wh-questions.

In English wh-questions, the [+wh] specifier feature of the head constituent complementizer C in the complementizer phrase CP is strong, and it attracts the whole wh-operator to move along to the spec CP to check the strong [+wh] specifier feature of the head C in CP. However, in Chinese wh-questions, the [+wh] specifier feature of the head constituent complementizer C in the complementizer phrase CP is weak, and it can not attract the whole wh-operator to move along to the spec CP to check the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C in CP. If the wh-words stay in situ, the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C in CP can not be checked. The only way out, since LF-movement and unselective binding do not work in the interpretation of the Chinese wh-questions (Ma, 2017a; 2017b) as is mentioned in Section 1, is to follow the Interrogative Feature Attraction Hypothesis (Ma, 2004; 2006: 108; 2014: 19; 2015; 2016a; 2016b; 2017a; 2017b; 2017c) . The weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C in CP attracts the [+wh] feature of the wh-word to move alone to the spec CP to check the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C in CP with the morphological features of the wh-word left in situ. The whole wh-word does not pied-pipe

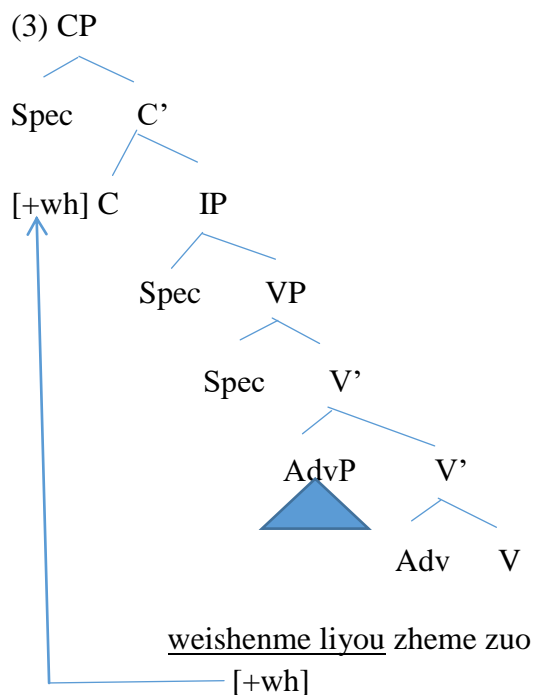
with the [+wh] feature of the wh-word to move along to the spec CP. Thus the [+wh] feature in the spec CP agrees with the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C in CP, and once the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C in CP is checked, it is deleted and the derivation converges. This solution of the Interrogative Feature Attraction Hypothesis to the problem of wh-feature checking also follows Chomsky (1995), Frampton (1997) and Cheng (2000). In the following passages, we'll take some of the wh-questions in *the Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung* as examples to illustrate how the Interrogative Feature Attraction Hypothesis works in the interpretation of wh-feature checking.

Following (1), the sentence (2) can be illustrated by the tree diagram of (3). In sentence (2), the first line is an example quoted from the Chinese version of *the Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung*, and the second line is the word to word translation of the first line, and the third line is the counterpart in English quoted from the English version of *the Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung*.

(2) Wei shenme liyou zheme zuo? (Mao, 1991: 1475)

for what reason this do

“Why must things be done this way? ”(Mao, 1971:380)



In (3), the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “wei shenme liyou” (“for what reason” in English) is attracted by the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C, and raises up to the spec CP position to check the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C. Since the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “wei shenme liyou” is moved to the spec CP position, the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “wei shenme liyou” in the spec CP position agrees with the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C, and therefore, the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is checked. Since the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is uninterpretable, once this [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is checked, it is deleted or erased. Since the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “wei shenme liyou” in the spec CP position is interpretable, it goes into the logical form of the sentence, and the derivation converges. The [+wh] feature moved in the spec CP position takes the wide scope in the sentence. The sentence is grammatical. Notice that in sentence (2) the wh-phrase “wei shenme liyou” (“for what reason” in English) is different from “weishenme” (“why” in English), as the wh-phrase “wei shenme liyou” (“for what reason” in English) could also be written as “weile shenme liyou” (“for what reason” in English) without any change in meaning.

We’ll look at another much longer sentence and see if the Interrogative Feature Attraction Hypothesis works. Sentence (4) can be accounted for in the representation of (5).

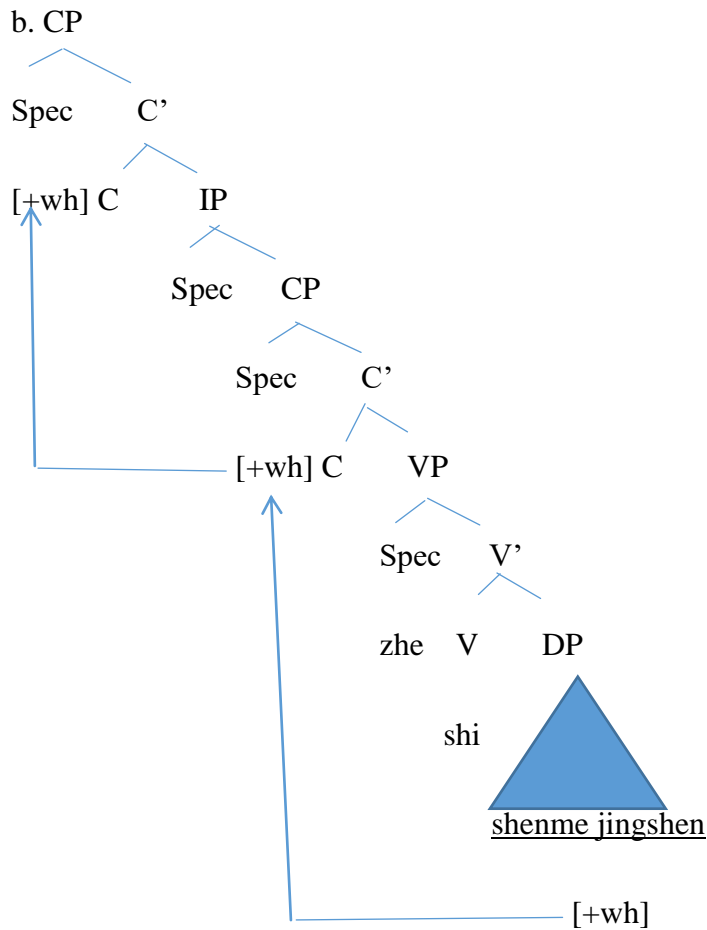
(4) yige waiguoren, haowulijide dongji, ba zhongguo renmin de jiefang shiye

A foreigner unselfish motive Part. Chinese people of revolutionary cause dangzuo taziji de shiye, zhe shi shenme jingshen? (Mao, 1991:659)

consider himself of cause this is what spirit

“What kind of spirit is this that makes a foreigner selflessly adopt the cause of the Chinese people’s liberation as his own? ” (Mao, 1971: 83)

(5) a. [_{CP} [+wh] yige waiguoren [_{IP} [_{AdvP} haowulijide dongji] [_{PP} ba zhongguo renminde shiye dangzuo taziji de shiye] [_{CP} zhe shi shenme jingshen?]]



In (5b), we omit in the tree diagram the branches of AdvP and PP under the IP node for convenience. As it is shown in the tree diagram, the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “shenme jingshen” (“what spirit” in English) is attracted by the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C, and raises up to the lower spec CP position to check the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the lower head C. And then the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “shenme jingshen” (“what spirit” in English) is attracted by the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the higher head C, and raises up to the upper spec CP position to check the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the higher head C. Since the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “shenme jingshen” is moved to the highest spec CP position, and thus the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “shenme jingshen” in the spec CP position agrees with the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the higher head C, and therefore, the [+wh] specifier feature of the higher head C is checked. Since the [+wh] specifier feature of the higher head C is uninterpretable, once this [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is checked, it is deleted or erased. Since the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “shenme jingshen” in the spec CP position is interpretable, it goes into the logical form of the

sentence, and the derivation converges. The [+wh] feature moved in the spec CP position takes the wide scope in the sentence. The sentence is grammatical.

In sentence (6), the [+wh] feature of the subject DP “shenme ren” (literally “what people” in English) is attracted by the the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C, and moves from spec IP position to the spec CP position to check the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C. Since the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “shenme ren” is moved to the spec CP position, the [+wh] feature of the subject wh-phrase “shenme ren” in the spec CP position agrees with the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C, and therefore, the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is checked. Since the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is uninterpretable, once this [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is checked, it is deleted. Since the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “shenme ren” in the spec CP position is interpretable, it goes into the logical form of the sentence, and the derivation converges as shown in (7). The [+wh] feature moved in the spec CP position takes the wide scope in the sentence. The sentence is grammatical.

(6) shenme ren shi bu laoshi de? (Mao, 1991: 822)

What people are not honest Part.

“Which are the dishonest people? ” (Mao, 1971: 221)

(7) [CP [+wh] [IP [DP shenme ren] [VP shi bu laoshi de]]]



However in sentence (8), the wh-phrase “shenme guilvxing” (literally “what law” in English) serves as an object of the verb “you” (literally “have” in English). As its syntactic representation of (9) illustrates, the [+wh] feature of the object DP “shenme guilvxing” (literally “what law” in English) is attracted by the the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C, and moves from complement DP position to the spec CP position to check the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C. Since the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “shenme guilvxing” is moved to the spec CP position, the [+wh] feature of the object wh-phrase “shenme guilvxing” in the spec CP position agrees with the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C, and therefore, the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is checked. Since the

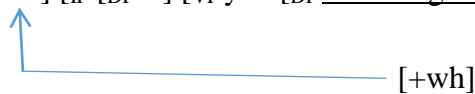
[+wh] specifier feature of the head C is uninterpretable, once this [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is checked, it is deleted. Since the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “shenme guilvxing” in the spec CP position is interpretable, it goes into the logical form of the sentence, and thus the derivation converges. The [+wh] feature moved in the spec CP position takes the wide scope in the sentence.

(8) ta you shenme guilvxing? (Mao, 1991: 534)

It have what law

“What are its laws?” (Mao, 1971:156)

(9) [CP [+wh] [IP [DP ta] [VP you [DP shenme guilvxing]]]]




In (10), the empty category pro is in the subject position of the sentence, and the wh-adverbial “zenyang” (literally “how” in English) must follow the empty category pro, otherwise the sentence is not grammatical. As in its syntactic representation of (11) is indicated, the [+wh] feature of the adverbial wh-word “zenme” (literally “how” in English) is attracted by the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C, and moves from complement DP position to the spec CP position to check the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C. Since the [+wh] feature of the wh-word “zenme” is moved to the spec CP position, the [+wh] feature of the wh-word “zenme” in the spec CP position agrees with the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C, and therefore, the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is checked. Since the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is uninterpretable, once this [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is checked, it is deleted. Since the [+wh] feature of the wh-word “zenme” in the spec CP position is interpretable, it goes into the logical form of the sentence, and thus the derivation converges. The [+wh] feature moved in the spec CP position takes the wide scope in the sentence.

(10) zenyang jiuzheng benbenzhuyi? (Mao, 1991: 112)

How correct book-worship

“How can we overcome book worship?” (Mao, 1971:43)

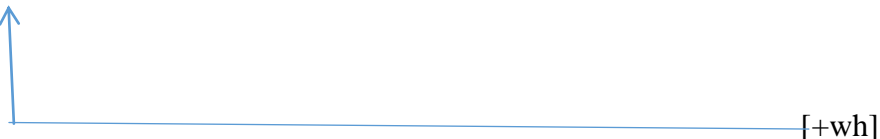
(11) [CP [+wh] [IP [DP pro] [AdvP zenyang] [VP jiuzheng [DP benbenzhuyi]]]]


Sentence (12) is different from the other sentences in that the DP phrase “shenme difang” (literally “what place” in English) is the complement of the preposition “zai” (“in” in English). As the syntactic representation in (13) shows, the [+wh] feature of the prepositional phrase “zai shenme difang” (literally “in what place” in English) is attracted by the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C, and moves from adjunct PP position to the spec CP position to check the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C. Since the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “zai shenme difang” is moved to the spec CP position, the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “zai shenme difang” in the spec CP position agrees with the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C, and therefore, the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is checked. Since the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is uninterpretable, once this [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is checked, it is deleted. Since the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “zai shenme difang” in the spec CP position is interpretable, it goes into the logical form of the sentence, and thus the derivation converges. The [+wh] feature moved in the spec CP position takes the wide scope in the sentence.

(12) zhe liangci dangnei douzheng suo de de jiaoxun zai shenmedifang ne?(Mao, 1991: 530)

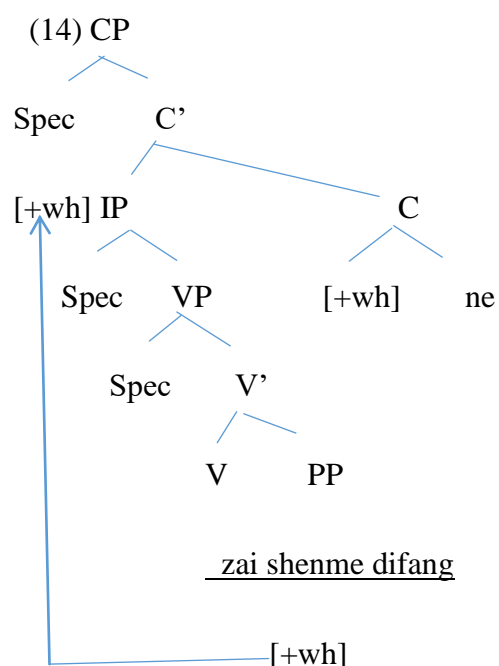
This two inner-Party struggle Part. get Part. lesson in what place Part.

“What are the lessons which have been derived from these two inner-Party struggles?”(Mao, 1971:152)

(13) [CP [+wh] [IP [DP zheliangcidangneidouzhengsuodedejiaoxun] [VP [PP zai shenmedifang ne]]]]


Notice that in (13) as the sentence is very long, we do not separate the Chinese

characters of the DP in spec IP apart, nor the PP in complement position of VP. In (13), the question particle at the end of the sentence can be considered as a sentence affix attached to the head C. This assumption is on the right track because in archaic Chinese version the bamboo slips of *Tao Te Ching*, there is no question particle at the end of wh-question, and therefore it's appropriate to think that the question particle in archaic Chinese is not a syntactic constituent, but rather a phonetic element attached to end of the sentence at PF (Ma, 2017b). We follow this assumption that question particles in archaic Chinese is a sentence affix attached to the head C at the end of the sentence, and assume that in modern Chinese this is also the case. The question particle “ne” in modern Chinese wh-questions is also a sentence affix which is attached or adjoined to the head C at the end of the sentences. This question particle is not a syntactic constituent, but instead a phonetic element formulated and derived in the PF or at the syntax phonology interface. We also suppose that the Chinese language is a head last language and that the head C in Chinese wh-questions is located at the end of the sentence. If this assumption is correct, the question particle is a sentence affix attached to the head C at the end of the sentence, different from English in which the head C is in front of the sentences. Thus following (1) a simplified tree diagram of (12) should be (14):



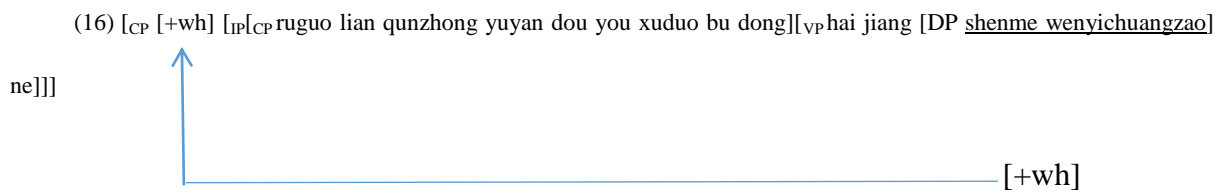
As is shown in (14), the [+wh] specifier feature of C is weak and can not attract the whole wh-phrase “zai shenme difang” to move to the spec CP position for checking requirement. This weak [+wh] specifier feature of C can only attract the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “zai shenme difang” to move to the spec CP position. After the feature attraction, the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “zai shenme difang” moved to the spec CP position agrees with the weak [+wh] specifier feature of C. And therefore the weak [+wh] specifier feature of C is checked and as this [+wh] specifier feature of C is an uninterpretable feature, after it is checked, it is erased immediately. And then after the great spell-out, in PF or in syntax phonology interface, the question particle “ne” is adjoined to the head C position at the end of the sentence. The derivation converges and the sentence is grammatical.

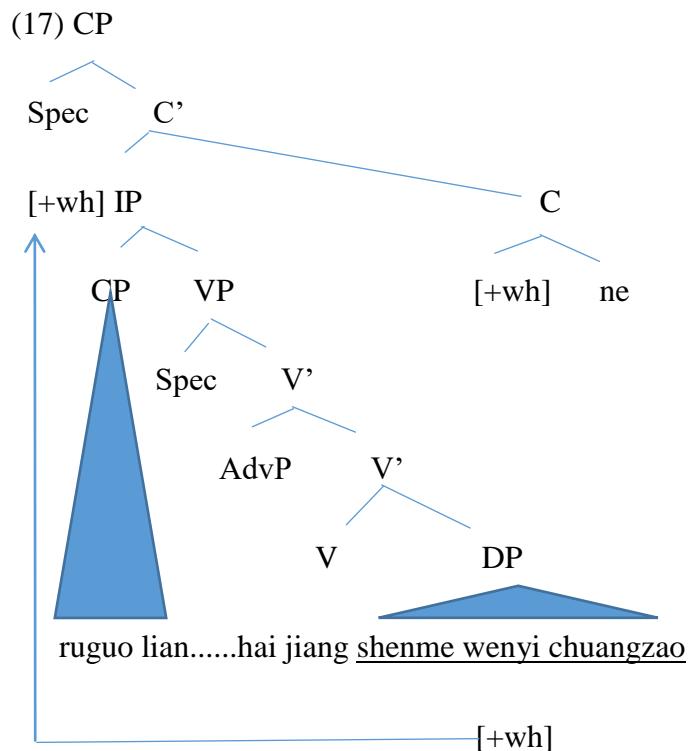
Sentence (15) is a relative clause. (16) is the syntactic representation of (15). And similar to (12), the question particle “ne” is attached to the head C position at PF as shown in the tree diagram of (17).

(15) ruguo lian qunzhong yuyan dou you xuduo bu dong, hai jiang shenme wenyi chuangzao ne? (Mao, 1991: 851)

If Foc mass language all have much not understand even speak what art creation Part.

“How can you talk of literary and artistic creation if you find the very language of the masses largely incomprehensible? (Mao, 1971:254)





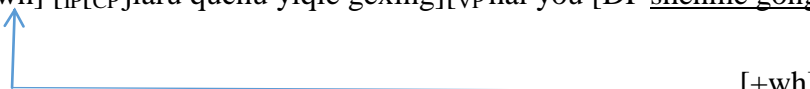
The relative clause in (17) is located in the lower CP and for convenience we do not write out all the constituents in the small clause. The [+wh] specifier feature of C is weak and can not attract the whole wh-phrase “shenme wenyi chuangzao” (literally “what artistic creation” in English) to move to the spec CP position for checking requirement. This weak [+wh] specifier feature of C can only attract the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “shenme wenyi chuangzao” to move to the spec CP position. After the feature attraction, and once the [+wh] feature of the wh-phrase “shenme wenyi chuangzao” moves to the spec CP position, it agrees with the weak [+wh] specifier feature of C. And therefore the weak [+wh] specifier feature of C is checked and as it is an uninterpretable feature, after it is checked, it is erased immediately. And then after the great spell-out, in PF or in syntax phonology interface, the question particle “ne” is adjoined to the head C position at the end of the sentence. The derivation converges and the sentence is grammatical. Sentence (18) is similar to (16) in its syntactic behavior as its syntactic representation is drawn in (19):

(18) jiaru quchu yiqie gexing, hai you shenme gongxing ne? (Mao, 1991: 320)

If remove all particularity Adv have what universality Part.

“If all individual character were removed, what general character would remain?” (Mao,

1971:109)

(19) [CP [+wh] [IP[CP jiaru quchu yiqie gexing][VP hai you [DP shenme gongxing] ne]]]


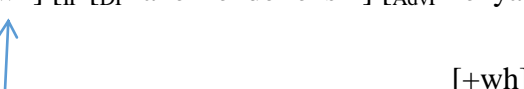
Another wh-question similar to (10) is written in (20) except that there is a subject before the wh-word “zenyang” (literally “how” in English) in the sentence (20) but not an empty category pro as in (10). The syntactic representation of (20) in (21) is similar to that of (10):

(20) raner rende renshi jiujiing zenyang cong shijian hansheng, er you fuwu yu shijian

However people’s knowledge Part. how from practice generate but again serve in practice
ne? (Mao, 1991: 284)

Part.

“But how then does human knowledge arise from practice and in turn serve practice?”(Mao, 1971:68)

(21) [CP [+wh] [IP [DP raner rende renshi] [AdvP zenyang] [VP cong ne]]]


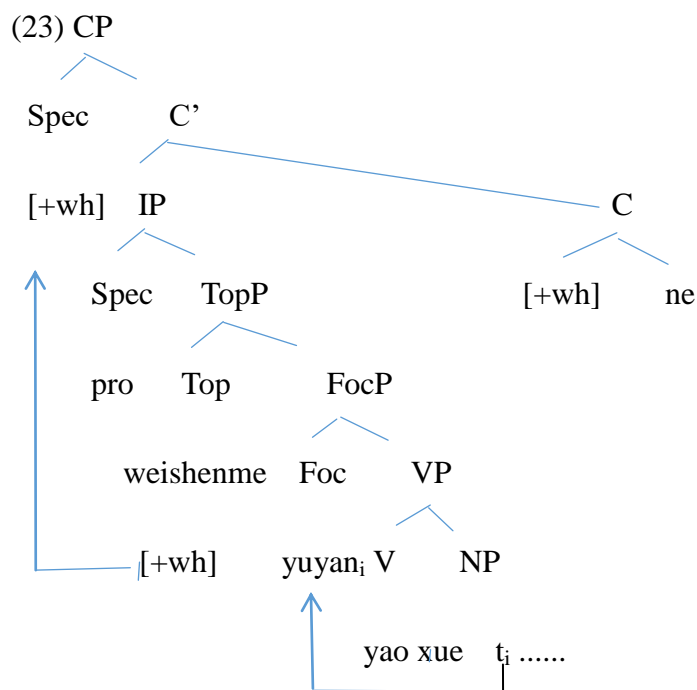
Similar to the adverbial wh-word “zenyang”/“how”in (10) and (20), the adverbial wh-word “weishenme” / “why” also occur in the beginning of the interrogative sentences as in (22). But (22) also involves object shift. The object “yuyan” (“language”) is moved to front position of the verb to check strong [+Foc] feature of the head Foc of FocP, the phenomenon of which is very common in archaic Chinese wh-questions as shown in Ma (2016b; 2017a; 2017b; 2017c). After the object “yuyan” (“language”) is moved to front position of the verb, the weak [+wh] specifier feature of C can only attract the [+wh] feature of the wh-word “zenme” to move to the spec CP position. After the feature attraction, and once the [+wh] feature of the wh-word “zenme” moves to the spec CP position, it agrees with the weak [+wh] specifier feature of C. And therefore the weak [+wh] specifier feature of

C is checked and as it is an uninterpretable feature, after it is checked, it is erased immediately. And then after the great spell-out, in PF or in syntax phonology interface, the question particle “ne” is adjoined to the head C position at the end of the sentence. The derivation converges and the sentence is grammatical.

(22) weishenme yuyan yao xue, bingqie yao yong henda de liqi qu xue ne? (Mao, 1991: 837)

Why language need study and need with great Part. effort go study Part.

“Why do we need to study language and, what is more, spend much effort on it? ”(Mao, 1971:238)



Up till now, as it is revealed from the illustrations in the above examples, all the wh-questions we quote from the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung* follow the hypothesis we have made in (1). The sentence in (24) quoted from the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung* is an appositive clause, in which the subject clause is referred back by the resumptive pronoun “zhe”/ “this”. (25) is the tree diagram of (24).

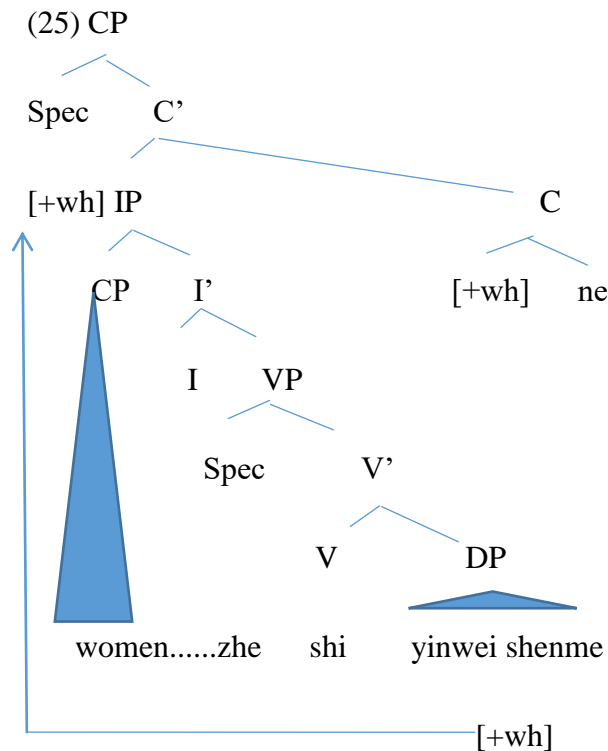
(24) women tong zhexie guojia zuo shengyi yiji jiashe zhexie guojia zai jianglai zai

We with these countries do business and if these country in future in

huli de tiaojianxia jieqian gei women, zhe shi yinwei shenme ne? (Mao, 1991: 1474)

mutual-benefit Part. condition borrow-money to us this is because what Part.

“Why do these countries do business with us and, supposing they might be willing to lend up money on terms of mutual benefit in the future, why would they do so? (Mao, 1971:378)



The shortened wh-questions “w+ne” also occur in the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung*, and there are only 4 such kind of wh-questions in the English version while in the Chinese version we find 7 abbreviated wh-questions. In (26-29), the shortened wh-questions are formulated by “NP+ne”, but in (30), the shortened wh-question is formed by “AdvP+ne”.

(26) zhongnong ne? (Mao, 1991: 20)

Middle-peasant Part.

“How about the middle peasants?”(Mao, 1971:34)

(27) tongqiangtiebi ne? (Mao, 1991: 139)

Bastion-of-iron Part.

“His bastion of iron?” (Mao, 1971:55)

(28) ren zi ne? (Mao, 1991: 136)

Man character Part.

“How about the character ‘人’[jen, meaning men]?” (Mao, 1971:237)

(29) women ne? (Mao, 1991: 1126)

We Part.

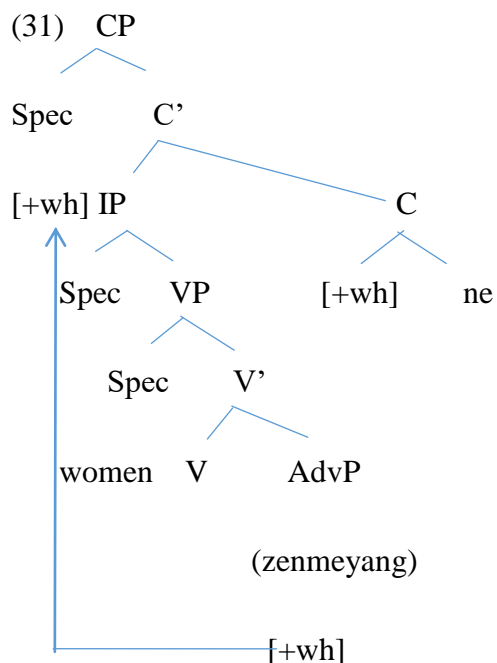
“And we?” (Mao, 1971:328)

(30) zhiduo ne? (Mao, 1991: 844)

At-most Part.

“And at most? ”(Mao, 1971:247)

Take (26) as an example. (31) is the tree diagram of (26).



(31) shows that in (26) the wh-word “zenmeyang” (literally “how about” in English) is

omitted for some reason that there must be a sentence before in which similar information is provided. In (31), the [+wh] feature of the adverbial wh-word “zenmeyang” (literally “how” in English) is attracted by the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C, and moves from complement DP position to the spec CP position to check the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C. Since the [+wh] feature of the wh-word “zenmeyang” is moved to the spec CP position, the [+wh] feature of the wh-word “zenmeyang” in the spec CP position agrees with the weak [+wh] specifier feature of the head C, and therefore, the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is checked. Since the [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is uninterpretable, once this [+wh] specifier feature of the head C is checked, it is deleted. Since the [+wh] feature of the wh-word “zenmeyang” in the spec CP position is interpretable, it goes into the logical form of the sentence, and thus the derivation converges. The [+wh] feature moved in the spec CP position takes the wide scope in the sentence. And then after the spell-out, the question particle is affixed to the head C position at PF or at the syntax-phonology interface. As Chinese is a head C last language, the head C is located at the end of the sentence, so the affix question particle is attached to the head C [+wh] feature at the end of the sentence as it is illustrated in (31). The sentence is thus grammatical. The other 4 shortened wh-questions can also be accounted for in the similar way.

Conclusion

In this paper, the author first introduces the Interrogative Feature Attraction Hypothesis (Ma, 2004; 2006: 108; 2014: 19; 2015; 2016a; 2016b; 2017a; 2017b; 2017c) in order to examine the wh-feature checking of the wh-questions in the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung*. Through the analysis of wh-feature checking of the wh-questions in the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung*, the Interrogative Feature Attraction Hypothesis (Ma, 2004; 2006: 108; 2014: 19; 2015; 2016a; 2016b; 2017a; 2017b; 2017c) is tested to work well in the explanation of wh-feature checking of the wh-questions in the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tsetung*.

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