

Questionnaire for connectives

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Language: Mandarin Chinese

Contexts

A. Conjunctive contexts

A1. No contrast

- 1) *Context (stative)*: Susie works as a doctor in a hospital. In her spare time, she gives classes at the local college.

Target sentences:

Susie is a doctor and she is a teacher.

Suxi shi yiming yisheng **erqie/bingqie** ta **??#(hai)** shi yiming laoshi

Susie is one.CL doctor *and* she HAI(also) is one.CL teacher

- It is not very natural to use the connective, better with juxtaposition

Susie is a doctor; she is a teacher. (check of whether juxtaposition is possible)

Suxi shi yiming yisheng. Ta **#(hai)** shi yiming laoshi

- Ye can replace hai

- 2) *Context (eventive)*: Paul needs to do some ironing, but he finds it boring, so he turns on the TV to watch his favourite program while he irons.

Target sentences:

Paul is watching TV and he is ironing his shirts.

Baoluo zai kan dianshi **?bingqie** ta zai tang tade chenyi

Paul ZAI watch TV AND he ZAI iron his shirts

Comment: it's quite a bit unnatural

Baoluo zai kan dianshi **bingqie** ta **ye** zai tang tade chenyi

YE(additive particle)

Comment: better with the additive particle “ye” (better than “hai” in this context)

But: Baoluo zai kan dianshi (**bingqie**) **yucitongshi** ta **hai** zai tang tade chenyi

Yucitongshi: at the same time

Paul is watching TV; he is ironing his shirts. (juxtaposition)

Baoluo zai kan dianshi. Ta **ye/hai** zai tang tade chenyi

Baoluo zai kan dianshi. **Yucitongshi** ta **hai/ye** zai tang tade chenyi

A2. Contrast

- 3) *Context (stative)*: Susie works as a doctor. She mainly treats patients who cannot pay for their treatment, so Susie earns much less money than other doctors.

Target sentence: Susie is a doctor but she is poor.

Suxi shi yiming yisheng **danshi** ta hen qiong
Susie is one.CL doctor but she very/pos poor

- Buguo might be slightly weirder here, but it is still perfectly acceptable

- 4) *Context (episodic)*: Jen bought a big ice cream cone. Instead of eating it herself though, she gave it to a sad-looking stranger who was sitting by himself on a bench.

Target sentence: Jen bought ice cream but she bought it for a stranger.

Jian maile bingqiling **?danshi** ta shi gei yige moshengren mai de
Jen buy.LE ice-cream but she BE give one.CL stranger buy DE

Comment: literal translation, kind of works, but the intended contrast is not so clear

buguo

but

- At least for now, buguo somehow sound more natural than danshi to convey the contrast

A3. Contrast - negated conjunct

- 5) *Context*: Paul told his grandmother that he works in a hospital and now his grandma tells everyone that Paul is a doctor. But this is not true, Paul actually works at the reception!

Target sentence: Paul is not a doctor but he is a receptionist.

Baoluo bushi (?yiming) yisheng. Ta **qishi** shi yiming jiedaiyuan
Paul neg.be one.CL doctor. He actually is one.CL receptionist

qishi ta shi yiming jiedaiyuan
Actually he

- Qishi can appear sentence-initially

Not clausal:

?Baoluo bushi yisheng **er** shi jiedaiyuan
Paul Neg.be doctor ER be receptionist

- Not entirely natural (might be my personal)

In principle: er can conjoin clauses
Baoluo ai chi yu **er** wo ai chi niurou
Paul love eat fish ER I love eat beef
“Paul loves fish but I love beef.”

- 6) *Context:* Jen was planning to buy herself some ice cream after work, but the store was all out of ice cream! So Jen decided to buy some chocolate instead.

Target sentence: Jen didn't buy ice cream but she bought chocolate.

Jen mei mai bingqiling, **danshi/buguo** ta maile qiaokeli
Jen NEG buy ice-cream, but she buy.LE chocolate

Comment: more natural interpretation: Jen didn't buy ice cream bc. She doesn't like it (sentence is in principle fine)

- 7) *Context:* Mike's mother told him to go to the supermarket to buy some ice cream for his sister, but Mike stole the ice cream instead.

Target sentence: Mike didn't buy the ice cream but he stole it/ the ice cream.

Literal translation:

Maikē meiyǒu mǎi bīngqílíng **dānshì/buguò/rán'ér/keshì** tā tóulē bīngqílíng
Mike NEG.have(PFV) buy ice cream but he steal.LE
icecream

Comment: Doesn't fully convey the same contrast as the English sentence. Better (but not a clausal construction):

Better translation (not clausal connective)

Maikē [meiyǒu mǎi bīngqílíng **er** shì tóulē bīngqílíng]
ER be

B. Disjunctive contexts

B1. With speaker knowledge about which clause is true

- 8) *Context:* On a multiple choice maths test, it asks “5x5” and lists two options (A) 24 and (B) 25. The teacher says to the student:

Target sentence: (Either) the answer to the question is A or the answer to the question is B.

Yaome wenti de da'an shi A, **yaome** wenti de da'an shi B
DISJ question POSS answer be A, DISJ question POSS answer be A

A bit more natural (because the two clauses share the subject):

wenti de da'an yaome shi A yaome shi B

- 9) *Context:* You and your friend are playing a game guessing the jobs of Paul and John. She can't think of the answer, and she asks you for a hint. You know that Paul is a doctor, and that John used to be a doctor but is not anymore. So you say:

Target sentence: (Either) Paul is a doctor or John is a doctor.

Yaome baoluo shi yisheng **yaome** yuehan shi yisheng
DISJ Paul be doctor DISJ John be doctor

- Presupposition: only one of them is a doctor

Baoluo shi yisheng **huo(zhe)** yuehan shi yisheng

Huozhe: DISJ

- No presupposition

B2. Without speaker knowledge about which clause is true

B2-1. Within a statement

B2-1.1 exclusive/unspecified

10) *Context*: You have lost your phone. You remember it at your work office desk before cycling home.

Target sentence: I left my phone at work or I dropped it on my way home.

Yaome wo ba dianhua la zai le bangongshi, **yaome** dianhua diao zai wo huijia de lushang

DISJ I BA phone leave LOC PFV office, DISJ phone drop LOC I return.home DE way

- Presuppose exactly one disjunct is true

Another translation with a different disjunction *huozhe*:

wo ba dianhua la zai le bangongshi, **huozhe** dianhua diao zai wo huijia de lushang
DISJ

- No presupposition
- Perfectly fine (no maximize presupposition like requirement; *yaome* is more colloquial so that may contribute to the lack of competition)

11) *Context*: John used to be a doctor and a professional writer, but he recently quit one of the professions. You don't know which profession he quit.

Target sentence: John is a doctor or he is a writer now.

Xianzai **yaome** Yuehan shi yisheng **yaome** Yuehan/ta shi zuojia.

Now DISJ John is doctor DISJ John/he is writer

- Presupposition that exactly one disjunct is true
- Slight preference for coordinating the VPs rather than full clauses because the subject is the same

Xianzai Yuehan shi yiming yisheng **huozhe** Yuehan/ta shi yiming zuojia.

one.CL doctor DISJ

one.CL writer

- Somehow prefer to have overt num+classifier
- No presupposition: it is fine ; again no MP

B2-1.2 inclusive

12) Context: John used to be a doctor and a professional writer, but he might have quit one of these professions. You're not sure about this though, he might be a doctor now, he might be a writer, he might also be both. Your friend asks you what John does for a living, you say:

Target sentence: John is a doctor or he is a writer (maybe both).

Comment: *Yaome* (see above) is no longer felicitous because its presupposition is not met.

Xianzai Yuehan shi yiming yisheng **huozhe** Yuehan/ta shi yiming zuojia.
one.CL doctor DISJ one.CL writer

B2-2. Within a question

13) *Context:* You have lost your phone. You tell a friend that you remember having it last either on the bus coming home from work, or at your work office desk. Your friend asks you:

Target sentence: Did you leave your phone at work or did you leave it on the bus?

Ni ba nide dianhua la zai le bangongshi (ma)? **Haishi/huozhe (shuo)** ni ba ta la zai le gongongqiche shang?

You BA your phone leave LOC PFV office MA(polarQ) DISJ-ALT/DISJ say you BA it leave LOC PFV bus on

Most natural: Ni ba nide dianhua la zai le bangongshi ma? **Haishi/huozhe shuo** ni ba ta la zai le gongongqiche shang (*ma)?

- Feels like two questions: the second conditioned on the “no” answer for the first one

Also quite good: Ni ba nide dianhua la zai le bangongshi **haishi/#huozhe** ni ba ta la zai le gongongqiche shang?

- Feels like one question
- This is probably closer to the target English sentence

Most natural thing to say (without coordinating clauses)

Ni ba nide dianhua la zai le bangongshi **haishi/#huozhe** gongongqiche shang?

14) *Context:* You really want a particular brand of sauce for something you plan on cooking later, but you're not sure which supermarket would sell it. You ask your housemate:

Target sentence: Would Shop A sell this brand or would Shop B sell this brand?

Most natural thing to say (without coordinating clauses)

A chaoshi **haishi /#huozhe** B chaoshi hui mai zhege paizi de jiangzhi?

A supermarket DISJ-ALT / DISJ B supermarket will sell this.CL brand DE(MOD) sauce

Clausal coordination:

A chaoshi hui mai zhege paizi de jiangzhi **haishi/#huozhe** B chaoshi hui mai zhege paizi de jiangzhi ?

- Pretty strong Implication only one supermarket will sell it
- But in this context it can be OK to use because the practical consideration is exclusive (which one to go first)

A chaoshi hui mai zhege paizi de jiangzhi ma? **Haishi/huozhe shuo** B chaoshi hui mai zhege paizi de jiangzhi

C. Others

C1. Both clauses are false

15) *Context (stative)*: Paul works in a hospital. He is not a doctor and he is not a nurse. He works at the reception.

Target sentence: Paul is neither a doctor nor is he a nurse.

Baluo ji bu shi yisheng **ye** bu shi hushi
Paul JI NEG is doctor also NEG is nurse

JI: pairs with ye; similar to either in either ... or

16) *Context (episodic)*: Mike's mother told him to go to the supermarket to buy some ice cream for his sister, but Mike stole it instead and ate it himself.

Target sentence: Mike didn't buy the ice cream nor did he give it to his sister.

Maikē ji **mei** mai nage bingqiling, ta **ye mei** ba ta gei tade meimei
Mike JI NEG buy that.CL icecream he also NEG BA it give his younger.sister

C2. Free choice

17) *Context*: There are two sweets on the table. A cupcake and a cookie. Paul can choose either one of them but not both. You don't care which one he chooses.

Target sentence: Paul can eat a cupcake or he can eat a cookie.

Baoluo keyi chi beizidangao **huozhe/#haishi** ta keyi chi binggan
Paul can eat cupcake DISJ / DISJ-ALT he can eat cookie

- Does not entail he cannot eat both

Non-clausal coordination

Baoluo keyi chi beizidangao **huo(zhe)/#haishi** binggan

- Yaome doesn't work here

Also possible:

[beizidangao huo(zhe)/**haishi** binggan] Baoluo **dou** keyi chi

- Free-choice is entailed in this case with dou
- Additional dou particle probably doing something else
- Huozhe and haishi are both good (but maybe for different reasons)

Coordinating imperatives with yaome

Ni yaome chi dangao yaome chi binggan

You DISJ eat cake DISJ eat cookie

C3. Disjunction under negation

– can be skipped if 15)/16) elicit explicit/separate negation (rather than a dedicated connective)

18) *Context*: Susie always wanted to be a doctor, and she always loved running.

When she was a kid, she dreamt of a double-career as a doctor and a professional runner. Unfortunately for Susie, neither of these plans worked out. She works a job she doesn't like and she has no time for running.

Target sentence: Susie isn't a doctor or a runner.

(= It's not the case that Susie is a doctor or that Susie is a runner.)