An Empirical Study of Postposing Constructions in Korean

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Kim, Taeho. 2011. An empirical study of postposing constructions in Korean. Linguistic Research 28(1), 223-238. This study investigates postposing constructions in Korean with colloquial data, focusing on what causes an argument, i.e. subject and object, to be placed post-predicatively. In this study, the author argues that the 'more accessible/urgent information first' principle should be responsible for the postposing of less accessible/urgent information into a post-predicative position. More specifically, the preceding element is more accessible in the speaker's consciousness due to its urgency/relevance, and thus uttered first, overriding the 'given-before-new' principle and the predicate-final constraint. Also, certain types of verbs, e.g. existential verbs, also trigger postposing, although they were considered to be weaker triggers than the 'urgency/relevance of information' factor. This study also addresses the fact that the pragmatic functions of post-predicative arguments include specification of a referent, emphasis, and clarification, as well as the fact that a particle attached to the given post-predicative argument functions to indicate topic/contrast, information focus, etc. (Kyungnam University)

Key Words postposing, postposing constructions, post-predicative, pre-predicative, accessibility, givenness, importance, urgency, relevance