

否定情報の獲得と応用

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How We Receive and Use Negative Informations

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Abstract Negation has two aspects, the information that the external world provides us, and the speech act directed at the interlocutor. To receive negative information successfully, we must have either a prior confirmation or an anticipation of positive information in our cognitive environment. The negation as a speech act is done in discourse to correct perception gaps between those who participate in the conversation and new propositions are produced one after another in discourse. The judgment of the truth of those propositions depends to a large degree on the context, because the inference based on the knowledge obtained from the context is invoked in the process of the judgment of truth. The negative interrogative speech act is used to judge the truth of the affirmative proposition believed by the speaker. Thus, the negative interrogative has acquired a strong motivation to change itself into an assertion or an expression of reinforcement through a rhetorical question. Modern Chinese has created a lot of idiomatic expressions which originate in negative interrogatives and are used as assertions or reinforcements of the proposition.