

Two paths to correction

Danfeng Wu | danfeng.wu@magd.ox.ac.uk

Background

- Mandarin bing and you are used for correction.
- In a dialogue, they may be used to correct the interlocutor, salient; (7) suggests that this requirement is too strict. and thus require there to be a proposition to correct.
- Bing and you are odd out-of-the-blue (1), but fine if the interlocutor had said 'Zhangsan works out.'
- (1) Context: I tell you about my friend Zhangsan, who you don't know anything about. I say: Zhangsan (#{bing/you}) bu jianshen Zhangsan BING/YOU NEG work.out 'Zhangsan doesn't work out.'
- When correcting a negative p, they still require negation: (2) A: 'Zhangsan doesn't work out.'
 - B:Zhangsan {bing/you} *(mei you bu) jianshen Zhangsan BING/YOU NEG have NEG work.out 'It's not the case that Zhangsan doesn't work out.'
- also presuppositions and non-linguistic statements (3): (3) Context: A puppy approaches Zhangsan, who looks

• Bing and you can not only contradict at-issue content, but

scared. I tell Zhangsan: bie pa. ta{bing/you} bu hui yao ni don't afriad it BING/YOU NEG will bite you 'Don't be afraid. It won't bite you.'

3 differences between bing and you

#1: You but not bing implies the speaker's impatience.

- The use of you but not bing in (3) implies the speaker's Mica requires a prior claim or a salient expectation to deny impatience with Zhangsan-perhaps they think Zhangsan is too cowardly and his fear of a puppy is not justified.
- #2: Bing but not you can contradict the expectation created the gym every day, but he {bing/#you} doesn't work out') #3: Bing can be embedded in finite clauses and negative
- polar questions, while you cannot be embedded:
- (4) Zhangsan {bing/#you} bu jianshen ma Zhangsan BING/YOU NEG work.out q 'Does Zhangsan not work out?'

Proposal:

- (5) $\lceil bing not p \rceil^c(w) = 1 iff p is false$ Defined only if $\exists r: \exists q: q \text{ is salient } \land q \Rightarrow r \land \neg p \Rightarrow \neg r$ "There's a salient proposition q and an (explicit or Bing is fine in both answers, whereas you is odd in both. implicit) proposition r such that q normally entails r and Bing is licensed because its prejacent contrasts with the ¬p normally entails ¬r."
- (6) $\llbracket you \text{ not } p \rrbracket^c(w) = 1 \text{ iff } p \text{ is false}$ Defined only if \forall w' [w' is compatible with what the \forall You is odd because it is rude to assume that A should know speaker, knows in $w \rightarrow \neg p \in CG_{w'}$]

"The speaker, believes that ¬p was in the CG."

Accounting for the data

Bing: (1) seems to suggest that bing not p requires p to be

(7) A: 'I'm hungry.'

B: (danshi) fandian bing mei you kai but restaurant BING NEG have open 'The restaurants aren't open.'

My proposal in (5) accounts for (7):

- r = Speaker A will get to eat;
- q⇒r: A is hungry normally entails (⇒) that A will get to eat;
- $\neg p \Rightarrow \neg r$: The restaurants aren't open \Rightarrow A will not get to eat **You** is fine in (3) because normally a puppy doesn't bite.
- But if the animal in the situation is a hungry wild lion in a savannah, then the use of you is very odd because it is odd to presuppose that lions don't bite.
- Bing is fine in both situations because Zhangsan's fear makes p salient (i.e. the puppy / the lion will bite him).
- You cannot be embedded in questions (4) because the question p? lets the interlocutors negotiate what are the facts about p, but the user of you believes that the negotiation already happened, and ¬p is already in the CG.

Comparison with Italian and Hindi-Urdu

 Mica in Italian and thoṛi: in Hindi-Urdu also require a salient proposition to correct.

Competing proposals for *mica*:

- (=bing; Cinque 1976).
- Mica presupposes that the speaker is sure that p should not be added to the CG (≈*you*; Frana & Rawlins 2019).
- in the same sentence (e.g. out of the blue: 'ZS goes to *Thoṛi: presupposes that the speaker is sure that p should not be added to the CG, but instead an alternative p' should be (≈*you*; Bhatt & Homer 2022).
 - Key data that supported Frana & Rawlins' analysis but not Cinque's (Frana & Rawlins 2019:47):
 - (8) Context: A, an IKEA delivery person, asks B about their building; buildings normally have elevators not escalators
 - A: 'Does your building have an {elevator/escalator}?'
 - B: 'No, my building doesn't have {#mica an elevator / mica an escalator}.'

 - proposition made salient by A's question (i.e. B's building has an elevator / escalator).
 - whether B's building has an elevator / escalator, even if buildings normally don't have escalators.

Corrective negation in English, German, Spanish...

- Languages that don't appear to have a dedicated word for correction actually do—the negation in the first conjunct of corrective 'but' (e.g. German sondern) sentences. (Toosarvandani 2013:828)
- Max does**n't** eat spinach but chard.
- (10) Dasist **nicht** bewusst, sondern ganz automatisch.
 - (Anscombre & Ducrot 1977:2) 'This is not conscious, but completely automatic.'

• Like bing, they all require negation, but not incorporated negation (e.g. impossible).

I think the audience at Sinn und Bedeutung 29 "Evidentials in non-canonical speech acts" workshop, Nanjing University, Peking University, UC Santa Cruz, and the University of Göttingen for helpful comments.





poster paper