

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	v
Abstract	viii
List of Tables	xii
List of Abbreviations	xiii
List of Figures	xiv
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
Chapter 2 The Mandarin Chinese <i>Ba</i> -Construction as a Second Topic	6
2.1 Introduction	6
2.2 The <i>Ba</i> -construction	7
2.2.1 Constraint on the Progressive in the <i>Ba</i> -Construction	8
2.2.2 Constraint on the Cooccurrence of Verbs with the <i>Ba</i> -NP	9
2.2.2.1 Simple Verbs and the <i>Ba</i> -Construction	9
2.2.2.2 Constraint on Modifiers in the <i>Ba</i> -Construction	17
2.2.2.3 Constraint on the Compound Verb and the <i>Ba</i> - Construction	19
2.2.3 Constraint on the Definiteness of the <i>Ba</i> -NP	21
2.2.4 The <i>Ba</i> -NP as non-Argument of the Adjacent Verb	24
2.2.5 <i>Ba</i> -NP without Thematic Role	26
2.3 The Second Topic Hypothesis	30
2.3.1 The Criteria for Topichood in Mandarin Chinese	30
2.3.2 The <i>Ba</i> -NP as Definite or Generic	31
2.3.3 The <i>Ba</i> -NP not Selected by the Verb	33
2.3.4 The <i>Ba</i> -NP in First Position of the <i>Ba</i> -Topic	34
2.3.5 The <i>Ba</i> -NP in Control of the Pronominalization or Deletion	36
2.3.6 The <i>Ba</i> -NP not in Control of Grammatical Processes	37
2.3.7 Nonapplicability of the Topic Criteria to non-Topic NPs	42
2.3.7.1 Topic as Definite or Generic	42
2.3.7.2 Topic as non-Argument	43
2.3.7.3 Topic in Control of Coreference in the Topic Chain	44
2.3.7.4 Topic in Control of Grammatical Processes	45
2.4 The Structure of the Second Topic	47
2.4.1 VP Adjunction as the Position of Second Topic	49
2.4.2 INFL Government	50
2.4.3 Internal Theta-Role and Variable Object	50
2.5 Comparison with Other Theories	53
2.5.1 The <i>Ba</i> -NP as PP?	53
2.5.1.1 Argument against <i>Ba</i> -NP as PP	54

2.5.2	NP after <i>Ba</i> and Affected Theme Role	57
2.5.3	Argument against Affected Theme Role in the <i>Ba</i> - construction.....	59
2.5.3.1	Assignment of Thematic Role.....	60
2.5.3.2	The <i>Ba</i> -NP as non-Affected Theme Role.....	61
2.6	Conclusion	61
	Notes on Chapter 2	63
Chapter 3	The Acquisition of <i>Ba</i> -construction.....	64
3.1	Introduction.....	64
3.2	Previous Studies	64
3.3	Study One: the Psychological Reality of the Constraints.....	75
3.3.1	Subjects	75
3.3.2	Material	76
3.4	Study Two: the Comprehension of the <i>Ba</i> -Construction.....	76
3.4.1	Subjects	77
3.4.2	Material	77
3.4.3	Procedure	78
3.4.4	Test Sentences.....	79
Chapter 4	Results and Discussion.....	89
4.1	Results	89
4.1.1	Gender is not a Contributing Factor	89
4.1.2	The Correlation Between Age and the Constraints	90
4.1.3	The Correlation between Groups and the Constraints.....	91
4.1.4	The Guttman Scalogram and the Principal Component Analysis.....	98
4.1.5	The Crucial Cutoff Point.....	99
4.1.6	Reflexivization.....	102
4.1.7	Chain Formation	105
4.2	Discussion	108
4.2.1	The Order of Emergence.....	111
4.2.1.1	The Conservative Learner.....	112
4.2.1.2	The Contrast between the Progressive and Definiteness Constraints.....	114
4.2.1.3	Factors Facilitating Language Acquisition.....	115
4.2.1.4	The Contrast Between Verb Selection and Definiteness Constraints.....	123
4.2.1.5	The Constraint on Modifier in the <i>Ba</i> -construction	126
4.2.1.6	The Constraint on Compound Verbs in the <i>Ba</i> - Construction	127
4.2.2	Summary	134
4.2.3	The Development of Reflexivization in the <i>Ba</i> -Construction.....	134
4.2.4	Topic Chain Formation	137
	Notes on Chapter 4	142

Chapter 5 Theoretical Implications	143
5.1 Introduction.....	143
5.2 The Developmental Problem.....	143
5.2.1 The Maturation Hypothesis	144
5.2.2 The Continuity Hypothesis.....	149
5.2.3 The Incrementalist Hypothesis	151
5.3 General Discussion	153
5.3.1 The Maturation Hypothesis.....	154
5.3.2 The Continuity Hypothesis.....	155
5.3.3 The Incrementalist Hypothesis	156
5.4 Conclusion	157
Appendix	159