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Constraints on Auxiliary Fronting in Peranakan Javanese

Constraints on Auxiliary Fronting In Peranakan Javanese This presentation deals with the distribution of auxiliary-like elements in Peranakan Javanese (PNJ), the Javanese spoken by native speakers of Javanese of Chinese ethnicity in the city of Semarang on the island of Java (Indonesia). We argue that auxiliaries are distinguished from verbs and that they are functional heads that take the VP as a complement. Auxiliaries undergo optional head movement to C. Not only do single auxiliaries move to C, as in familiar languages, but, unlike familiar languages, sequences of two or three auxiliaries can move to C as well. Significantly, the order of the moved auxiliaries is always the same as the order in their unmoved position. We shall show that the distribution of auxiliaries in PNJ is predicted if a "tucking in" (Richards 1997) analysis of head movement similar to that of Collins (2002) is adopted. There is, furthermore, evidence favoring a head movement analysis over a remnant movement approach.

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