

Anti-A Movement

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A VP, AP, or NP in a predicate can undergo a clause-internal movement in Mandarin Chinese (e.g., *Ta yao mai shu qu* ‘He wants to buy books’, *Ta shou de hen* ‘He is very thin’, and *Ta shi bendan yi ge* ‘He is a fool’). The moving element must be a lexical category, and the landing site must be lower than any functional element in the clausal spine. The paper shows that this type of movement is different from both A and A-bar movement, and argues that in the clausal spine there is a formal dependency between a low functional head and the predicate. The exponents of the functional head for stative predicates are different from those for non-stative predicates, and the lexical category that is attracted by the functional head carries a stativity feature. Moreover, the stativity contrasts of predicates are morphologically encoded in some languages. The paper severs the syntactic licensing of predicates from the syntactic licensing of other parts of a clause, arguing that while arguments need their formal features such as Case to be licensed, predicates need their stativity feature to be licensed. In both cases, the licensing of an element can be accomplished by either a local c-commanding functional head or the movement of an element that bears the relevant feature to the Spec of the functional head.