ABSTRACT OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

TITLE : The Apposition in Contemporary French
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This doctor dissertation aims to bring to light the nominal predicate in contemporary French, in which the predication is usually realized by a verbal predicate. For this purpose, we analyze in detail the apposition, especially its predicational mechanism by studying the examples we ourselves gatherd in our corpus.

In the Part 1, the previous studies on the apposition were examined. The Chapter I surveyed the developpement of the notion "apposition" : how the rhetorical notion "appositio" has changed into the grammatical notion "apposition" and how it has been treated by grammarians so far. In the Chapter II, we checked the status quo of contemporary French grammars and dictionaries concerning the apposition. We examined one usual dictionnary, one linguistic dictionary and three grammars, which revealed us the fact that the notion "apposition" is not clearly defined and is used in various ways depending on a dictionnary or a grammar. In the Chapter III, the contemporary linguistical studies on the French apposition were systematically examined, and their contribution has led us to the morphosyntaxic approach for the analysis of the apposition, since its mechanism, which is often assimilated to the one of the copular sentence, is not made clear.

The Part 2 examined the predication established by the two statal verb, *être* and *avoir*, because their predications are often considered as the same as as the one of the apposition, which we don't agree at all. In the Chapter I, the copular sentence «X ETRE Y» was studied. According to previous studies, the copular sentences can be devided into the two following categories; specificational sentence and predicational sentence. In the former one, X is a non-referential variable, while Y is a referential value. On the other hand, in the latter case, X is a referential value, while Y is a non-referential attribute. We also argued the referential force is the key for determining a type of a copular sentence. In the Chapter II, the sentence «X AVOIR YZ» was investigated. We already know, thanks to previous studies, that in this type of sentence, *avoir* functions as a predicational connector between Y and Z, and between X and Y-Z. We classified the interpretations of «X AVOIR YZ» into three types according to the relation among the three elements, X, Y and Z.

In the Part 3, we analysed appositions we gathered in written textes. In the Chapter I, we clearly defined our subject of survey, "apposition", as follows : the apposition is a predication established between two sequences without being connected by any element. In the Chapter II, we listed our corpus. We have collected about 800 appositions in journals, magazines, movie programs, novels and scientific articles. The Chapter III surveys the functions of punctuation marks, since most of the two sequences in apposition are separated by a punctuation mark, usually by a comma.

Our corpus research has led us to classify our appositions into the two following types according to its mechanism; "identification" and "characterization". The Chapter IV analyzed the former type, "identification", which we compared with a spcificational sentence and argued that in the "identification", both the support sequence and the apposed sequence are referential noun phrases, while in the specificational sentence «X ETRE Y», it is only Y that is referential, but not X. In the "identification", the apposed Y identifies the support X by classifying X as a member of group Y, or establishing with X non-anaphoric coreference. The apposed Y reformulates or denominates X, or presentes an attribute of X.

The Chapter V is on the other type ; "characterization". Though this type of apposition is similar to the predicational sentence in that both Y presents an attribute of X, the former predication depends completely on the

semantic relation between X and Y, while the latter predication is assured by the connector *être*. That explains why the position of two sequences in appostion is almost without any restrictions. The analysis of the "characterization" suggests that the predication established by the apposition is assured by semantic elements.

In the Chapter VI, we examined the two other types of the "characterization". The one, «XY», is called by grammars "absolute construction ", and the other, «X, YZ», is an apposition whose apposed sequence is composed of an "absolute construction". The fomer type differs from the other types of apposition we examined so far in that the two sequences are never separated by a punctuation mark, and they function together as an adverbial complement. The «X, YZ» has some points in common with the sentence «X AVOIR YZ», but our analysis revealed the fact that its predication is assured only by the semantic relation "all (X) - part (YZ)". From the study of these two appositions, we suppose that there are two ways to construct an apposition; the one is to separate two sequences by a punctuation mark and to charge only the support sequence with a syntaxical function, and the other is to attach two sequences without separating them by a punctuation mark, and to charge both of them with a function of the adverbial complement.

The Chapter VII studied appositions whose support sequence is predicated by plural apposed sequences, and the Chapter VIII is on the appositions made by combining plural appositions. Both research supportrd our hypothesis that the apposition establishes a predication depending exclusively on the semantic relation. In the Chapter IX, we analyzed the appostion from the point of the frequency. Our corpus showed us that there are two tendancies according to the texts; the appositions preferred in journalistic texts and the appositions used especially in novels. The former consists of an apposition whose sequence is a proper noun, while the latter consists of an apposition whose apposed sequence functions as an adverbial complement.

In the Part 4, we analyzed appositions in spoken French. The Chapter I argued that the organisation of utterance in spoken language is differnt of the one in written language. In the Chapter II we showed how to identify an apposition in a spoken language where no punctuation mark is employed. The chapter III analyzed the apposition we gatherd in our oral

corpus. Though our corpus is composed of various kinds of recording, we coould collect only 30-40 appositions. The funcions of an apposed sequence are considerably limited, and they seldom present new informaion to a support sequence. Our analysis suggested that the apposition is raraly used as a means of predication in spoken language, where a verbal predicate is employed almost systematically to assure the predication.

After having analyzed various types of apposition in written and spoken languages, we can say that it is a verbal predicate that is the most suitable for the predication in contemporary French. It is true that the apposition establishes a predication by using a nominal predicate, but its predication depends completely on the semantic relation between two sequences and contextual factors. The apposition is a parasite structure which establishes a predication by taking advantage of semantic and contextual factors, and being supported syntaxically by a primary sentence.