Another type of blocker and Korean caki

A common thread in the literature on the blocking effects of the long-distance anaphor has mainly been concerned with the mismatch of person features between potential candidates. In addition, blocking effects have long been treated exclusively in connection with Chinese ziji, as exemplified by the following sentences.

1. Wo bu xihuan Lisi de shi. (Chinese)
   I not like Lisi interfere self DE matter
   ‘I don’t like Lisi interfering in my (own) business.’

2. Lisi bu xihuan wo de shi. (Chinese)
   Lisi not like I interfere self DE matter
   ‘Lisi does not like me interfering in my (own) business.’ (Pan 2001: 283)

3. Chelswu-nun nay-ka caki-lul coaha-n-ta-ko sayngkaka-n-ta. (Korean)
   Chelswu-Top I-Nom self-Acc like-Pres-Decl-Comp think-Pres-Decl
   ‘Chelswu, thinks I like him/myself.’ (Cole et al. 1990: 19)

Interestingly, Pan (2001) points out that the blocking effect of Chinese ziji is not symmetrical in that a first or second person pronoun blocks long-distance binding of ziji, but a third person antecedent cannot.

However, this paper claims that third person intereners may serve as a blocker, as shown in (5) through (6).

   John-Nom Mary-Dat Tom-Nom self-Acc see-come-Pst-Comp say-Pst-Decl
   ‘John, told Mary, that Tom came to see/visit self.’

   John-Nom Mary-Dat Tom-Nom self-Acc see-go-Pst-Comp say-Pst-Decl
   ‘John, told Mary, that Tom went to see/visit self.’ (Han and Storoshenko 2012: 772)

   Taroo-Nom Hanako-Top Ziroo-Nom self-Acc look for go-Pst-Comp say-Pst
   ‘Taroo, told Hanako that Ziroo went to look for self.’

In order to account for these facts, I propose that the blocking effects in long-distance binding, at least in East Asian languages such as Korean, Chinese, and Japanese, are not observed in logophoric locus, but exist instead in empathy locus. Assuming this is the correct approach, Huang and Liu’s (2001) logophoric treatment of blocking effects is no longer valid since their account cannot explain why the blocking effects take place without the mismatch between person features, based on Kuno’s (1972) direct discourse analysis, not only in Chinese but also in Korean and Japanese.

The first person pronouns in (7) and (8) do not induce blocking, but these sentences are completely acceptable because caki and ziji in the embedded clause here act as a logophor within the scope of the attitude verb.

   promotion-from pass over-Pst-Decl
   ‘Chelswu, was afraid that I might surpass him/*myself, so he did not promote me.’

8. Zhangsan, shenga wo chaoguo ziji, suoyi bu tiba wo. (Chinese)
   Zhangsan worry I surpass self, so not promote me
   ‘Zhangsan, was afraid that I might surpass him/*myself, so he did not promote me.’

In conclusion, I propose that the long-distance binding of caki, as well as Chinese ziji and Japanese zibun, can best be analyzed when it is divided into two different categories: logophor and empathy.
Selected References:


