

## Chinese and English structure

HE, An E

The Education University of Hong Kong

Introduction: Work on learners' awareness of the difference between the Chinese and English structure.

•Analyze the following Chinese questions and decide if the tag questions 'yes' or 'no' address the fact in the main clause or seek (dis)agreement of the speaker's opinion in the tag question. Pay attention to the agreement (negative or positive) between the main and the tag question (the task is shortened due to limited space).

1. 她没有去过北京, 是吧? [Hasn't she been to Beijing, has she?]

-不是, 她去过北京了。 [No, she's been to Beijing]

-是她没有去过北京。 [Yes, she's not been to Beijing]

2. 马克不是住在大埔, 是不是? (Marc does not live in Tai Po, does he?)

-不, 他住在大埔。 [No, he lives in Tai Po]

-是, 他不住在大埔。 [Yes, he does not live in Tai Po]

3. ...

•Examine the following sentences in English. Discuss with your partner whether the 'yes'/'no' refers to the fact in the question or shows an agreement/disagreement with the speaker.

1. Hasn't she been to Beijing?

- Yes, she has.

- No, she hasn't.

2. Marc doesn't live in Tai Po, does he?

- Yes, he does.

- No, he doesn't.

3. ...

• Summarize your observations: when the answer is ‘no’, is it followed by a positive or negative clause? Do the two parts (yes/no and the clause to follow) share the same polarity?

---

---

---

---

• Compare the sentences in English with those in Chinese and identify the differences.

---

---

---

---

• *error correction task with the same text used for the analysis to “check students’ understanding and raise their awareness”.*