

**InJung Cho**  
(*Monash University*)

### **Word order and information flow**

Human languages are produced linearly so that word order has long been thought to be related with the order of thought, and these days this relationship is being explained by information structure theory. This close relationship between word order and information flow makes it very challenging to translate or interpret one language into another, in particular, if there are significant differences in word order. Little research, however, has been done on the translation and interpretation of English adverbial clauses into Korean although English and Korean show a striking difference: English adverbial clauses can precede or follow the main clause while Korean adverbial clauses can only precede the main clause. Considering that English adverbial clauses are often used to organise the information flow in the text, this difference in word order between two languages can cause the distortion of the original information flow, making target language texts more difficult to understand and causing significant parts of the original messages to be lost. The findings of this study may also apply to languages other than Korean which have a similar constraint on the possible sentence position of adverbial clauses.