

## **Order Matters in the Toe Domain**

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Roots are structure-building elements that do not have syntactic category features such as N and V, and they get categorized in their syntactic contexts (Borer 2013). They may form the lowest domain, the toe domain, of the clausal spine. The following issues are addressed in this talk: are roots just place-holders in syntax as claimed in De Belder & van Craenenbroeck (2015 *Linguistic Inquiry*) or not; does precedence play a role in merge (Kayne 1994; Haider 2001) or not (Abels & Neeleman 2009; 2012 *Syntax*); the base-generated order of a head and its complement is head-initial (Kayne 1994) or head-final (Haider 2001); and finally does FOFC apply to the root domain or not. I will discuss the organizations of roots in root compounds in Mandarin Chinese.