

This revision is of two sentences from a dissertation by a Chinese-speaking student of Social Policy:

Original	Revision
<p>Apart from physical and social costs, the carers also suffered from emotional and psychological costs, and employment and financial costs. In the emotional and psychological costs, 6 carers said that their relationships with the person(s) they cared for have changed since they started to care for them, 5 of them described them stressed.</p>	<p>Apart from physical and social costs, the carers also incurred emotional and psychological costs, and employment and financial costs. As to the emotional and psychological costs, 6 carers said that their relationships with the person(s) they cared for had changed since they started to care for them, while 5 of them described those relationships as stressed.</p>

Among the “secondary” points, the following may be may be worth noting:

- Substitution of **incurred** for **suffered from**. Subsequent examination of the two verbs in a 35-million word corpus from the Guardian and Observer justified the substitution, the 5 most frequent objects of **incur** in my data being **loss(es), cost(s), penalty(-ies), charge(s), and debt(s)**, while those of **suffer from** are **disease(s), depression, disorder(s), stress, and condition**.
- The explicit **those relationships** is required for the cross-reference in the second sentence, as otherwise it is not clear whether the c-r is to the **persons** cared for or (as the student confirmed) to the **relationships**.

The major discussion, however, centred on the preposition **in** at the start of the second sentence. It was clear that the student was looking for a way of contrastively marking the *Topic* of what was to follow (i.e. **the emotional and psychological costs** v. **the employment and financial costs**). Possible sentence-initial devices for marking the topic that occurred to us were **As to X**, **As for X** and **As far as X is concerned**. There followed a rapid survey of the three structures from the Guardian/Observer database:

As to X

All the examples we found showed the topic being established contrastively. For example (contrasting terms printed bold):

1. **Marriages**, he says, ‘seem to thrive on, proportionately, a little negativity and a lot of positivity’. As to **divorce**, Gottman’s research leads him to conclude: ‘It is an unpalatable, but inescapable truth that some marriages cannot and should not be saved.’

2. He admits however that he and Berlusconi do share some cultural affinities. “We have anti-communism in common. As to **politics**, there is still a remarkable similarity between the basis of our movements.”

3. He told the judges he had given clearance for about **£27,000 held in Swiss accounts** to be released and it was now on its way to solicitors for the insurers. As to **the rest of the available**

money, he said he was currently unable to contact Mr X but he understood he would be in touch with his father after the appeal.

As for X

Again, **As for** was contrastive, but many examples showed negative evaluation (see 2 & 3 below): the topic is named, only to be dismissed:

1. Cabinet Office procedure requires ministers to ensure that “no conflict arises or is thought to arise between [their] private interests and [their] public duties”. As for travel and hospitality, ministers “will wish to ensure that no undue obligation is involved”.
2. It is hard enough receiving Radio 4 on FM in parts of London. As for Wales, well, don't even bother,
3. Colleagues relied on Gorbachov at their peril, for he ‘was master of his word he could both give it and take it back’. As for Gorbachov's wife Raisa, she was ‘tough, harsh, and domineering,’ with an influence over her husband extending into every corner of Soviet policy.

As far as X is concerned

The meaning of contrast with this Topicaliser seems to be weakened to the selection of a Topic - usually a point of view - from the set of potential topics stated or implicit in the preceding context.

1. There are no extremist candidates in this election - latent or otherwise. As far as public ownership is concerned, Croslandism has triumphed. The party now accepts that control is more important than ownership.
2. The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg ruled that, despite surgery, she had not acquired “all the biological characteristics of the other sex”. As far as the law was concerned, she, and those like her, were still legally regarded as men.
3. Effectively, all general insurance contracts, with a few minor exceptions such as export credit insurance, will have 2.5 per cent tax charged on the premiums. 4. As far as the public is concerned, the tax will be collected on the premiums they pay for house buildings, house contents, motor and travel insurance.

The outcome of this piece of rapid on-line research was that the student chose **As to** to show the Topic of the second sentence.