

The Nature and Structure of Sentences with Object-oriented Adverbials

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ABSTRACT

Sentences with object-oriented adverbials (SOOAs) are a well-studied topic in Chinese linguistics. This paper proposes that double verb structure is an essential property of SOOAs. They consist of two verbs, of which the first verb serves the function of the predicate and denotes an activity characteristic of conventional property or features and the second verb serves the function of the complement and denotes result. The combination of the two verbs denotes a complete event. Both the state adjective and the object are in the complement clause. Between the object and the state adjective exists a null predicate. State adjectives in Chinese SOOAs can move freely, whereas those in English and German SOOAs are subject to strict syntactic constraints. Once this has been accepted, many long-standing puzzles that are related to this type of sentences are solved quite readily.

Keywords: Sentences with object-oriented adverbials (SOOAs); state adjective; double verb structure; small clause; movement parameter

1. INTRODUCTION

In the research of Chinese grammar, the following constructions are generally addressed as sentences with object-oriented adverbials (henceforth SOOAs).