Chinese Descriptive and Resultative *V-de* Constructions
A Dependency-Based Analysis

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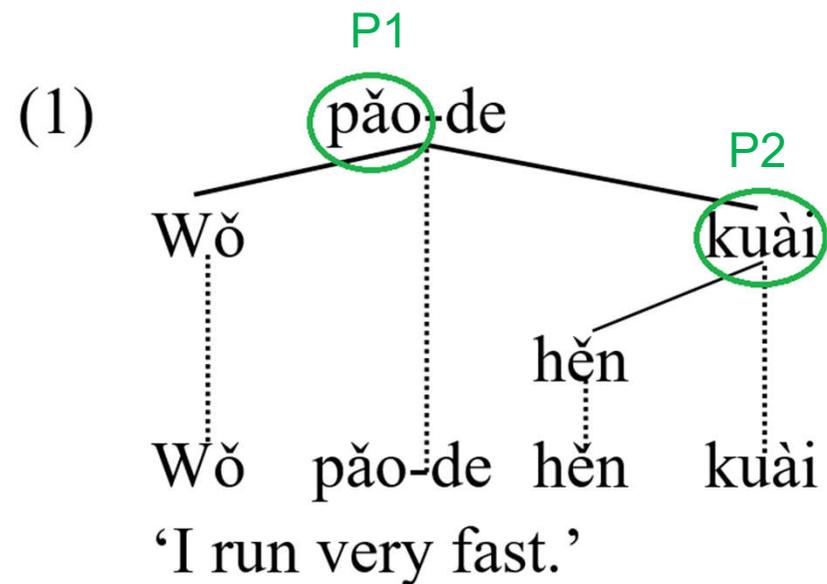# Introduction

- **_Descriptive and resultative V-de constructions_**

  - P1-*de*

  - P1 & P2

(1) (from Huang, 1988, p. 274)

Wǒ (pǎo) (de) hěn (kuài).
I   run   DE   very (be)fast
'I run very fast.'
我跑得很快。

- ***Secondary Predication hypothesis*** (e.g., Huang, 1988)

(1) Wǒ pǎo-de hěn kuài

'I run very fast.'

- When an **NP (NP2) intervenes** between P1 and P2

(2) (EM=Emphasis)

Wǒ	păo	de	xiédài	dōu	diào	le.
I	run	DE	shoelaces	EM	loosen	LE

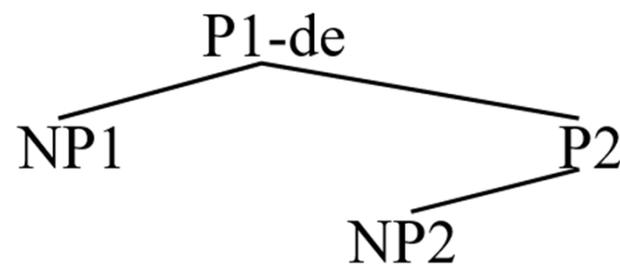'I ran to the extent that even my shoelaces got loose'

我跑得鞋带都掉了。

- **Research question**
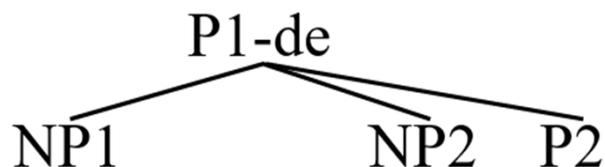
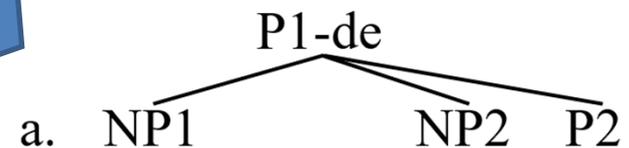(a) Ternary-branching analysis   (b) Small clause analysis

- **Chunking experiment**

  - Assumption: Dependents should be grouped with their head

(3) I wait-DE him very anxious

a. Wǒ | děng-de **tā** | hǎo xīnjiāo.   – 35
b. Wǒ děng-de **tā** | hǎo | xīnjiāo.   – 3
c. Wǒ | děng-de | **tā** hǎo xīnjiāo.   – 2
d. Wǒ děng-de | **tā** | hǎo xīnjiāo.   – 3

'I waited for him so anxiously.'
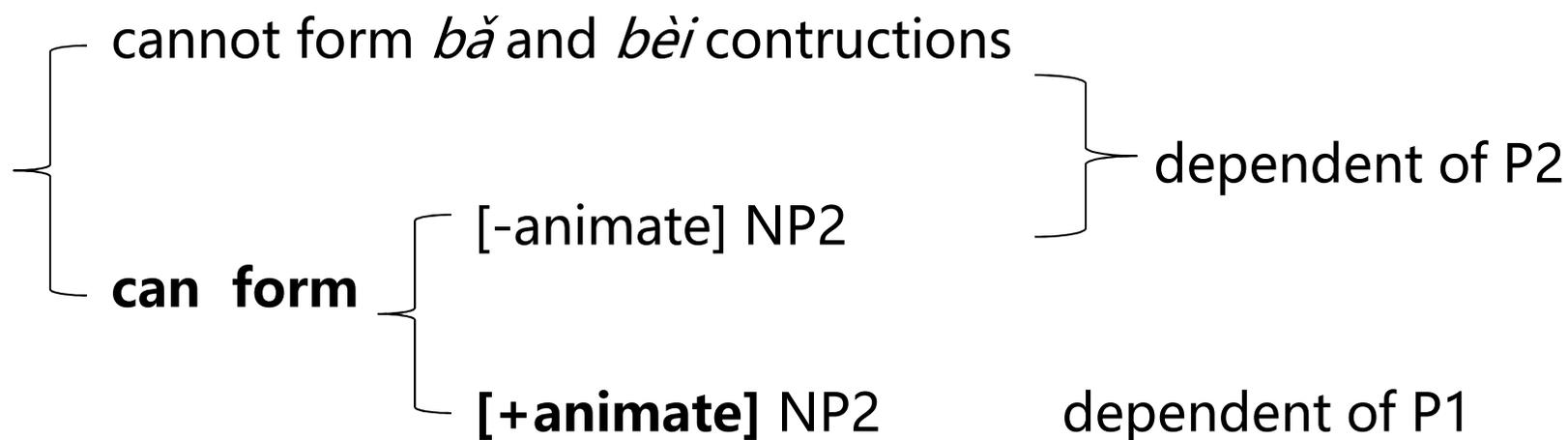
P1-de
a. NP1   NP2 P2

Ternary-branching Analysis

- Argument of P1 : dependent of P1

- **Not an argument of P1: flexible analysis**

cannot form *bǎ* and *bèi* contructions

can form

[-animate] NP2

dependent of P2

[+animate] NP2   dependent of P1

Summary

- **Status of the intervening NP (NP2)**
    - chunking data
    - flexible analysis

a.
```
        P1-de
       /    \
    NP1    NP2  P2
```

– Argument of P1;
  Argument of P2 only,
  can survive *bǎ* and *bèi* tests, and
  is animate

b.
```
        P1-de
       /      \
    NP1        P2
              /
           NP2
```
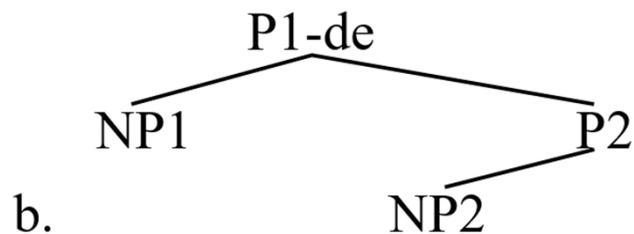
– Argument of P2 only,
  cannot survive *bǎ* and *bèi* tests, or
  can survive the tests, but
  is inanimate

Acknowledgement

Thanks for your attention!

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