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

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Introduction

• *Descriptive and resultative V-de constructions*

• P1-*de*  
  
  (1) (from Huang, 1988, p. 274)  
  
  Wǒ **pǎo** de hěn **kuài**  
  I run DE very (be)fast  
  ‘I run very fast.’

• P1 & P2  

我跑得很快。
• **Secondary Predication hypothesis** (e.g., Huang, 1988)

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(1) pǎo·de
   Wǒ hěn kuài
   ‘I run very fast.’
```

P1

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

(2) (EM=Emphasis)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Wǒ pǎo de xiédài dōu diào le.} & \quad \text{I run DE shoelaces EM loosen LE} \\
\end{align*}
\]

‘I ran to the extent that even my shoelaces got loose’

• **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.’

  Ternary-branching Analysis
Results and Discussion

- Argument of P1: dependent of P1

- Not an argument of P1: flexible analysis

  cannot form \( b \) and \( b \) contructions

  can form

  \([-\text{animate}]\) NP2

  \([+\text{animate}]\) NP2

  dependent of P2

  dependent of P1
• **Status of the intervening NP (NP2)**
  - chunking data
  - flexible analysis

  - Argument of P1;
    Argument of P2 only, can survive בוא and בוא tests, and is animate

  - Argument of P2 only, cannot survive בוא and בוא tests, or can survive the tests, but is inanimate
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Thanks for your attention!

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