



# Adjectival Modification in Mandarin: Evidence for the Adjunction Analysis

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## Abstract

This paper examines the interpretational properties and distributional patterns of adjectival modification with *de* in Mandarin, aiming to revive the adjunction approach to adjectival modification, against the alternative approach which takes adjectives as uniformly occupying the Specifier positions of different functional projections. Specifically, unlike previous studies which primarily focus on the distributional patterns of a single [Adj+*de*] sequence within a nominal expression, this paper mainly investigates collocated [Adj+*de*] sequences, and reveals that they not only show the same distributional patterns as a single [Adj+*de*] sequence, but may also give rise to two different interpretations, an observation which has gone unnoticed in the literature. Based on these observations, it is proposed that collocated [Adj+*de*] sequences are best analyzed on a par with a single [Adj+*de*] sequence as AP adjuncts, which can target three different positions, including a Determiner Phrase (DP), a Numeral Phrase (NumP) and a Noun Phrase (NP). As for the two readings available to collocated [Adj+*de*] sequences, they are proposed to be derived from different structures.

## Keywords

adjectival modification, adjunct, specifier, collocated [Adj+*de*] sequences, Mandarin

## 漢語的形容詞修飾結構——附接分析的例證

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### 提要

本文研究帶“的”字的形容詞修飾結構，描述其釋義和分佈，支持將這種修飾結構分析為附接語，並反對將形容詞短語一概分析為指示語的說法。具體來說，本文著重考察了“形容詞+的”的並置結構，認為它不僅與單項“形容詞+的”結構具有相同分佈，而且會引出一種之前並未注意的歧義解讀。由此，本文認為“形容詞+的”的並置結構與單項“形容詞+的”的修飾結構相同，應該分析為附接語，並可附接於限定詞短語、數詞短語和名詞短語。此外，歧義解讀應該是不同的句法結構所引出的一種結構歧義。

### 關鍵詞

形容詞修飾結構，附接語，指示語，“形容詞+的”並置結構，漢語